

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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ANALYSIS Could Baltic crackdown affect churches?

By Martha Skelton

TALLINN, Estonia (BP) — In one of those self-revelatory statements East Europeans are famous for, an Estonian said last summer that his city's architecture ranged from the baroque to the "barraque" — as in army barrack.

Always a presence the Baltic peoples lived with, Soviet troops began taking over public facilities in Lithuania and Latvia in mid-January this year. At least 13 Lithuanians died trying to stop the troops. The military reality has resurged.

The reordering of Soviet society under Mikhail Gorbachev and last year's declarations of independence by the three Baltic states brought new hope and life to the peoples — including the Christians — of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia. They faced many problems, but with a renewed sense of the possibility to direct their own destinies. All this is now in question.

Gorbachev appears determined to quash the independence movements in the republics, starting with the Baltics.

Over the past decades, non-Balts by the thousands have been relocated in the three republics. They have manned a buildup of industrial power in this area. But local people believe there is another reason for their presence — to dilute the nationalistic fervor of the republics. By one recent estimate, the population of Estonia is 38 percent non-Estonian and Latvia is

48 percent non-Latvian.

Obvious tensions arise. Outsiders get a higher priority for jobs and housing. They do not speak the local language or know the culture and history of their new home. That breeds resentment in some local peoples. The non-Baltic citizens resent being told to learn another language and culture.

In most republics where nationalism is an issue, restoration of mother-tongue languages and the open use of national flags have been key gestures in attempts to reverse the effort to weaken ethnic and cultural ties.

Emigration and deportation, both widespread in the 1940s, also have contributed to the problem. Thousands of Balts left their homelands to settle in other lands, depleting the local populations. Many Estonians, Latvians, and Lithuanians were among the millions of people deported and exiled in Siberia during Stalin's reign. Baptist groups in both Latvia and Estonia also were weakened by emigration and deportation.

Economic interdependency of the republics is another complex issue. The Baltic states provide all of the Soviet Union with industrial goods and shipping access through Riga, Latvia's capital, and Tallinn, Estonia's capital. Factories produce many times more goods than they need for local use.

Christians — including the 6,000 members of Evangelical Christian-Baptist churches in Estonia and the 4,500 members in Latvia — find themselves and the future of their work for Christ intertwined with these events.

When the Latvian government established a new department of religion in December 1989, a profound change was made in how the government and churches relate to each other.

"Before it was an apparatus to control the church," said a department spokesman in 1990. "Now our main function is to help the different churches in their work."

In former years, Christians were seen as not needed in society; the fewer Christians the better. "Now it is quite the opposite," he added.

In both Estonia and Latvia, Baptists have requested and received the return of some church buildings confiscated during the Stalinist years.

Churches in Russia and other Soviet republics have had similar experiences under the relaxing of stiff regulations in recent years. A comprehensive law of religious freedom was passed for the Soviet Union last fall.

Religious services, Christian films, interviews with church leaders broadcast on television or printed in newspapers have shown the public the numbers of believers and diversity of ministries they have in the Soviet Union. Churches have reported Communist Party members coming to enroll their children in Sunday School.

Baltic Baptist unions work on their own programs and theological education while maintaining a fraternal relationship through the Union of Evangelical Christians-Baptists, the overall organization of churches in the Soviet Union.

Baptists from Estonia and Latvia were included in the large Soviet delegation attending last summer's Baptist World Alliance meeting in Seoul, South Korea.

At the same time, ethnic Russians or Ukrainians or Estonians cherish their own diverse cultures, languages, and heritages.

The first Christian mission organization registered with the Soviet government was the Latvian Christian Mission, founded in 1988 by Vadim Kovalev. He is a Russian pastor from Riga. Believers from both Russian- and Latvian-speaking groups have participated in the mis-

sion's ministries of prison evangelism, hospital volunteer work and feeding the hungry. But its work is mainly for Russians. Now Latvian Baptists plan a similar ministry.

One of the struggles Baltic Baptists have faced is that a popular, generic type of Christianity will overshadow the authentic gospel message. A teacher went to a Lutheran church last year and asked that his name be put on their roll. "I don't believe in God," he told the pastor, "but the church has so much contributed to our culture."

Believers have a responsibility to counter that idea, according to one Baptist pastor.

If a new period of hardship lies ahead, Baltic believers will face the future as they have faced the past. "We learned to depend only on God," one Latvian pastor said.

"If you come to truth, it is the beginning of hope," an Estonian added. "If there is no truth, there is no hope."

Martha Skelton, a veteran of coverage in the Soviet Union, visited Estonia and Latvia last year. She is associate editor of *The Commission*, magazine of the Foreign Mission Board.

European Baptists ask Gorbachev for peace

HAMBURG, Germany (BP) — European Baptist Federation leaders have sent a telegram to Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev appealing for "a policy of peaceful negotiation" with the breakaway republic of Lithuania.

The telegram followed the death of 13 Lithuanians in a Jan. 13 clash with Soviet troops, who were backing Communist Party loyalists attempting to take control of the republic. Lithuania's legislature declared the republic's independence from Moscow last March.

Baptist leaders depicted the action against "an unarmed people" as "a backward step in the path of democratization which you have been so courageously following and which has won the admiration of the nations of the world."

They urged Gorbachev "to exercise

patience and to pursue a policy of peaceful negotiation, however difficult this may be." Such actions, they added, "would send a signal to all involved in the Gulf crisis that justice and peace can be established and maintained without resort to armed force."

The telegram, signed by European Baptist Federation President Peter Barber and General Secretary Karl-Heinz Walter, also assured Gorbachev of Baptists' prayers.

The EBF also sent a telegram to Baptist leaders in the other two independence-seeking Baltic republics, Estonia and Latvia, to assure them of "our love and prayers in these difficult days." Pro-Soviet commandos killed five people Jan. 20 in Latvia.

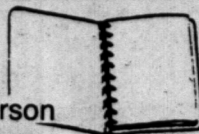


FOUND FAITHFUL — Members of the Baptist Church in Jelgava, Latvia, kneel in prayer during a worship service. Church membership in the Baltic states has suffered through years of emigration, deportation, and imprisonment, but has been turning around since new openness

brought greater opportunities to teach the Bible, evangelize, and perform social ministries. But the Soviet crackdown on the Baltic states has brought new doubts. (BP Photo by Don Rutledge)

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Guy Henderson



The heartbeat of America

This may take the shape of an automobile for some citizens but for the church the heartbeat is something else. Evangelism should be the real heartbeat of believers.

Evangelism is the proclamation of the historical, biblical Christ as Savior and Lord, seeking to persuade people to accept him personally and thus be reconciled to God. This calls for a deep and often costly penetration of society. It's breaking out of the so-called Christian ghettos in order to permeate a non-Christian society. The church as the community of God's people must be identified with this cause.

The heartbeat has become upbeat. We increased last year in the number we baptized. There was a 7.7 percent increase across the SBC and 9.7 percent increase in Mississippi. More of our churches are involved in witness training and in evangelism with a social persuasion.

In America 43 percent of our people were unchurched in 1988, according to Lyle Schaller. The Home Mission Board lists 167 million lost people in our nation. The estimate for Mississippi is 40 percent unchurched and 1,100,000 unsaved.

Interestingly enough, only 3 percent of Americans said they were "no

religion" and a whopping 92 percent have a religious preference, according to church growth specialist C. Kirk Hadaway. Percentage-wise or by head count we have white harvest fields all around us.

Most of these unsaved people will never be confronted with the gospel. There will be little persuasion to bring them to Christ. Southern Baptists have grown strong on a steady diet of evangelism. We have suffered when we neglected it.

In an old Bible I found an up-to-date article:

If evangelism is indeed the heartbeat of the church, the heartbeat is barely detectable in vast segments of the church today.

When evangelism is a passion, it is concerned primarily with souls. When evangelism is promotion, it is concerned chiefly with statistics.

When evangelism is a passion, it is used of God to advance his kingdom. When evangelism is promotion, it is used by men to enlarge an institution.

When evangelism is a

passion, joy and exhilaration are found in the performance of its privileges. When evangelism is promotion, pressure and strain exist in the performance of its duties.

When evangelism is a passion, there are spontaneity and urgency in witnessing. When evangelism is a promotion, witnessing must be coached and coached.

When evangelism is a passion, it is a spiritual exercise of the caring heart. When evangelism is promotion, it is religious "gimmickry" to achieve ecclesiastical success.

Churches don't accidentally become evangelistic. You will not discover it by just drifting along with the tide. It has a "this one thing I do" flavor that hurls us into the strongholds of an unsympathetic world. The opinion of the majority will be opposed to it. The ear of the church must be attuned to the command of our Lord, not to the raucous noise of the crowd.

Cost And Embarrassment Of Typographical Errors

By James N. Griffith
Executive Director—Treasurer
Georgia Baptist Convention

Driving to work on a recent morning, I was listening to the news on National Public Radio and was startled to hear that the editor of *Success Magazine* had issued an edict to staff warning that "fines up to \$500 would be levied on writers and copy editors for misspelled words and overlooked typographical errors."

This may not stamp out all typographical errors in this particular publication, but it should obliterate any financial security some of the staff members may have previously enjoyed.

At \$500 per slip-up, the staff members could join in mournful chorus: "How costly are the errors of our ways!"

But at any rate, there is no doubt that the undetected typographical error is the bane of the editor's and writer's existence.

In my experience as a journalist, I can recall going to press and feeling that all was well—only to discover that in the darkness of night "typo gremlins" had stolen in and sprinkled errors throughout the publication.

And sadly, experience has

shown that attempting to correct an error proves to be worse than the original error.

A case in point is the apocryphal account of the old battle-scarred soldier's obituary which first carried the erroneous headline: "Battle-'Scared' Veteran Gone to Rest."

The would-be correction in a later issue was worse: "Bottle-Scared Veteran Gone to Rest."

The next correction attempted was equally devastating: "Battle-Scared Veteran Gone to Roost."

But alas, amidst family complaints, the editor tried one last time with the horrendous result: "Battle-Scared Veteran Gone to Roast."

Errors are disturbing, to say the least. As a columnist for some 35 years for the *Index*, I have had columns rendered meaningless by the erroneous printing of a two-letter word.

Still, in the larger more important writing that all of us do on the scroll of life, it is comforting that our loving, forgiving Lord is willing to provide us a clean sheet and a new opportunity to make our mark and do better in the marking.

Guest opinion . . .

A responsible and redemptive resolution

By Ken Alford

As one of Mississippi's three trustees on the Sunday School Board, I am appreciative of this opportunity to share a few of my observations related to the recent called meeting of the Board in which President Lloyd Elder's proposal for early retirement was accepted.

My primary observation is that Elder, the General Administration, and the trustees at large acted in a responsible and redemptive manner to resolve what Elder himself had called "an impasse." In the retirement document which his attorney had drawn up, Elder stated, "The parties acknowledge and agree that Employee's retirement is a result of honest differences of opinion between Employee and the Board with regard to management style, philosophy, and performance."

In reaching his decision to request early retirement, Elder said that he had asked himself what was best for the Board, what was best for Southern Baptists, and what was best for his own effective leadership at the Board. I sincerely believe that the vast majority of the trustees had asked themselves those same questions.

There was a sincere desire on the part of the trustees, especially the members of the G.A.C. who dealt extensively with Elder, that a resolution to the problematic areas in regard to his leadership be reached without causing further divisiveness within the already strife-torn SBC. Substantive concerns related to his administration at the Board had surfaced, and an erosion of confidence in his

presidency was an obvious reality.

Personally I feel that Elder, the G.A.C., and the trustees have reached the best possible conclusion to the whole painful matter. I believe that the vote to accept Elder's fair and favorable retirement proposal was a solution to the impasse at the Board which contained the least possibility for further divisiveness within our convention.

The following quote from the agreement proposed by Elder is very important as we seek for peace within our denomination: "This Agreement is not a result of or based upon political or theological differences between the Board and the Employee, but rather results from the parties' honest and good faith differences with regard to the Board's management. Employee prays that his request for retirement at this time will not and should not be a reason or basis for dissension, controversy, or disagreement within the Southern Baptist Convention." Hopefully, those comments will help to prevent possible misunderstandings in regard to the circumstances surrounding Elder's retirement.

That prayer of Elder is one with which I sincerely believe the vast majority of Sunday School Board trustees and Southern Baptists at large concur. I was personally very grateful that Elder's retirement proposal was accepted as he had presented it. I am also appreciative of the fact that the called meeting was open to the press and to the public so

that very significant facts could be brought out into the open. While some within our SBC will undoubtedly label Elder's retirement as the result of some "hard-ball" political ploy by radical fundamentalist "head hunters," I believe that the facts that have surfaced reveal that the BSSB trustees have acted responsibly and redemptively to reconcile the difficult situation that existed in regard to Lloyd Elder's leadership as president of our Board.

It is now time for Southern Baptists to pull together, to support Elder in his continuing role as president and then as consultant to the Board, and to pray earnestly for the process which will lead the Board to his successor. Please intercede for your Sunday School Board, your trustees, and your Southern Baptist Convention. Let's all ask the Lord to prevent Satan from using the events surrounding Elder's retirement as a catalyst for controversy among us. May we all pray and work for peace in our beloved denomination.

As the BSSB prepares to enter its second century, our brightest days are still ahead! Your Sunday School Board is worthy of your utmost confidence. I thank God for the opportunity of serving on the Board and ask for your continuing support of this glorious institution as we strive to find and do God's will in these days of challenge and opportunity.

Alford is pastor of Morrison Heights Church, Clinton. He, Gene Henderson, and Zach Hederman Jr. are BSSB trustees from Mississippi.

Networks use more profanity

TUPELO, MS — Honda is the leading sponsor of sex, violence, and profanity on network television, according to recent monitoring by American Family Association. The monitoring, done during the recent fall sweeps, showed the automobile company sponsoring 20.14 incidents of sex, violence, and profanity with every 30-second commercial the company ran.

Other top sponsors and scores included S. C. Johnson (19.40), Duracell (18.36), U.S. Sprint (17.64), Sony (16.75), Anheuser-Busch (16.32), Pfizer (15.82), Nissan (14.42), H. J. Heinz (14.36), Chrysler (14.24), and Ralston Purina (14.00).

The monitoring showed that NBC aired 12.18 sex, violence and profanity incidents per hour, while CBS showed 11.00 and ABC 8.40. The 31.58 per hour total projected over a one-year period means the networks air a total of 36,126 sex, violence and profanity incidents in prime-time alone. That total is broken down to 9,494 sex, 10,181 violence and 16,126 profanity incidents. Ninety percent of all sex incidents are between people not mar-

ried to each other.

"It is ironic that Chrysler is one of the leading sponsors of sex, violence, and profanity on television," said Donald E. Wildmon, president of AFA. "Their chairman, Lee Iacocca, not too long ago gave a speech condemning television producers for showing too much sex, violence, and profanity."

Wildmon said that the networks are increasingly using more, and more gross, profanity. "Not long ago the networks refused to use the name of Jesus as profanity. But the use of the name of Jesus as profanity is increasing on programs," he said. "In addition, the networks are also increasingly showing children using profanity. A recent episode of 'Knots Landing' had a 4-year-old boy calling his father a 'son-of-a-bit' because the father turned off a television program the child was watching."

The United Methodist minister said that the sponsors cited would be asked to reduce their sponsorship of sex, violence, and profanity. He said the AFA would call for a boycott of those companies which refuse to do so.

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How should Christians respond to war in the Gulf?

LONDON, England (EP) — War in the Persian Gulf has created some strange ethnic and religious alliances in the Middle East where battle lines have divided Moslems who have traditionally considered themselves brothers. But the U.S. should not expect the current alliance with Saudi, Iranian, and Syrian Arab Moslems and others to necessarily mean the friendship will continue long into the future, particularly if the damage to Iraq is too massive, warns one Christian expert on Islam. And if the damage is massive, Christians in the region, particularly Americans, should prepare for a backlash of anti-American sentiment.

"Even among our Arab allies there

will be resentment against humiliating Iraq too badly," said Dudley Woodberry, professor of Islamic Studies at Fuller Theological Seminary in California. If Iraq is devastated by the war "it will also affect the balance of power among the countries that are there."

The relationship between Moslem, Christian, and Jew in the region has been tumultuous in the past, and the future is uncertain. "A lot depends on how much human loss there is and how badly we humiliate Iraq," Woodberry said. "If the carnage is too bad there will be a backlash against Christians."

Alliances have shifted in the past, Woodberry explained. "You have a

shifting of alliances in the Arab world from time to time." Although such rifts between Moslem "brothers" are at times resolved, "Arabs have long memories," he added.

There's nothing to bring Moslems together, however, like a common enemy: Israel. "There's what we call a 'tribalism' in the Arab world — who the enemy is determines the alliance. If there's a common enemy you will have brother or sister countries uniting even though they may have fought in the past."

Syrian President Assad has said that if Israel enters the war, then Syria will fight on the side of Iraq.

When Moslems have been pitted against Moslems in the past, Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein has tried to separate religion from politics. The war between Iraq and Iran, for instance, was simply an ethnic dispute, Hussein insisted then, distancing himself from religious labels. Yet in the current conflict, Hussein has made a sudden about-face, calling it "a holy war," against "the great

Satan" of the West, and portraying himself as a religious zealot. Why the change?

"He is trying to make it a holy war," explained Woodberry, "and for many Moslems he is the one hope they have — the one Arab strongman who can get some rights for the Palestinians, for example, and perhaps the regaining of the east part of Jerusalem, which is an Islamic holy site."

Woodberry went on to explain that "the major holy site is Mecca (in (See GULF on page 10)

The Second Front Page

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Carey cuts deficit

President Jim Edwards has announced that William Carey College reduced its accumulated current fund deficit from \$1,905,000 to approximately \$357,000 as of June 30, 1990. Edwards indicated there were two major factors involved in the deficit reduction.

"First, we operated in the black and achieved a current fund surplus of over \$263,000 in the 12 months ending June 30, 1990. These positive results occurred primarily because of the 20 percent increase in student enrollment and tuition revenues for that period and increased giving by some of our alumni and other constituents. Continued improvements in both of these areas are the real keys to long-term financial health at the college," Edwards stated.

"Second, the trustee board recently approved a recommendation by the

administration, with full concurrence by our new independent auditor, Arthur Andersen, that approximately \$1,266,000 of the college's long-term debt be transferred from the current fund to the plant fund, thus reducing the accumulated current fund deficit by that amount. This debt reclassification occurred following a recent detailed review dating back to 1985 regarding short-term loans incurred to make payments on long-term debt related to the plan and endowment funds of the college. Our recent analysis indicates that these financial transactions should not have been reflected in the current fund and thus should not have increased the deficit reported in 1989. The new deficit of \$357,000, as of June 30, 1990, is certainly a continuing challenge but more manageable for the future. Our goal is to eliminate it by the 1992-93 fiscal year," Edwards concluded.

Pro-Saddam mobs threaten, burn homes

By Michael Chute

HONG KONG (BP) — Pro-Saddam Hussein mobs threatened to attack Baptist buildings in Bangladesh and burned the homes of 13 Christian families as Muslim anger over the Gulf war spilled into south Asia.

Police dispersed a mob bent on destroying a Baptist church in Magura, Bangladesh, Jan. 18 after Chinese engineers constructing an adjacent building reported the impending attack to authorities. Police later stationed five armed officers outside the Magura home of Southern Baptist missionaries David and Barbie Lindsey of Oklahoma City as a precaution.

Heavily armed police reinforcements took up positions around the Lindsey house Jan. 19 to repel a mob reportedly on its way. But another group of police stopped the group before it could reach the Lindsey house.

Another angry mob converged on the Baptist Building in Dhaka but left before police arrived. The building houses Southern Baptist mission offices, a guest house and the residence of missionaries Jim and Betty McKinley of Albany, Ky., and Louisville, Ky.

Two Japanese women missionaries at the guest house apparently drew the crowd's attention. The two ran in, to the house after seeing them, said McKinley.

The houses of 13 Bangladeshi Christian families reportedly were looted and burned by pro-Saddam Muslims the nights of Jan. 21 and 22. The Bap-

tist and Catholic families were forced out of their houses before attacks began.

Seven Southern Baptist missionary families (five of them from Mississippi) work in Bangladesh — three families in Dhaka and four in outlying areas. Missionaries are maintaining contact with each other every day during the crisis. They continue to curtail their activities, even shunning church services "so we wouldn't draw attention," explained McKinley.

He added that missionaries have remained in their homes since the outbreak of the war. McKinley and fellow missionary James Young of Thomastown, Miss., first ventured out only during the early-morning hours of Jan. 23.

McKinley and Young got a call Jan. 23 from the Development Service Center, a Baptist farm on Dhaka's outskirts, warning that another mob reportedly was on its way to attack the center. They went to a nearby police station to get an armed police escort before driving 21 miles to the farm. McKinley said local people had discouraged action against the farm and the mob did not come.

"All of us are in our own places," McKinley said. "Each one wants to remain in their home because of the neighbors. If we start moving about, that looks like it's worse than (the Bangladeshis) think it is. . . . But the situation is very tense. It's just so unpredictable."

(See MOBS on page 9)

Fellowship recommends world missions center

By Stan Haste

Against a backdrop of renewed turmoil in the Southern Baptist Convention, an interim steering committee of the Fellowship formed last summer will recommend a formal name for the group as well as a new center for world missions.

During a mid-January meeting held at the time Southern Baptist Sunday School Board President Lloyd Elder was being forced to accept early retirement as an alternative to outright dismissal, the temporary panel agreed on the name, "The Baptist Fellowship," to be recommended to a convocation May 9-11 in Atlanta.

Other possible names considered were Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, Baptist Mission Fellowship, Baptist Cooperative Missions Fellowship, Free Baptist Fellowship and Baptist Fellowship of America.

In a related action, the 70-member interim panel voted to incorporate and asked Moderator Daniel Vestal of Atlanta to appoint a task force to develop the legal framework for incorporation. Some who spoke to the issue underscored their intention that the action to incorporate be understood as a necessary legal step rather than a move toward forming a new convention.

Participants at the May gathering, to be held in Atlanta's Omni Coliseum, also will be asked to approve a world missions center which would function as a "catalyst for cooperative missions projects and ministries." The proposed center would serve as a "think tank for world evangelization and strategic mission planning," publish literature, sponsor conferences, crusades and mission partnerships, and be a center for "fostering renewal for missionaries, clergy and laity." An eight-person task force will flesh out the proposal.

Also receiving provisional approval subject to a vote at the May meeting were task teams on ethics, theological education and literature, each to consist of 10 persons appointed by Vestal. The three panels presumably would make specific recommendations at a later date for new initiatives in each of these areas.

A convocation committee charged

with preparing for the May 9-11 event reported the program will include worship, workshops, and business sessions. Committee co-chair John H. Hewett of Asheville, N.C., announced the convocation will open with a worship service on Thursday evening, May 9, with workshops set at 10 locations the following morning. Business sessions will be held on both Friday afternoon, May 10, and Saturday morning, May 11. Other worship services will be held on Friday evening and Saturday morning.

Four subcommittees — program, registration, networking, and local arrangements — are at work.

In a series of actions relating to present and future staffing needs, the interim steering committee voted to employ L. H. Johnson of Atlanta to coordinate logistics for the May gathering from the Fellowship's new office in Marietta, Ga., an Atlanta suburb.

Johnson, a 1954 religious education graduate of Southwestern Seminary, served Southern Baptist congregations as minister of administration for more than 25 years, the last 11 at Wieuca Road Church, Atlanta, before retiring in 1987. He has also been an adult Sunday School consultant at the Baptist Sunday School Board and director of administrative services and personnel for a real estate investment trust in Coral Gables, Fla.

In addition to approving the Johnson appointment, committee

members authorized Vestal to contract with additional staff as needed to promote the convocation.

Also approved for presentation at the May meeting was a motion by Walter B. Shurden of Macon, Ga., that a search committee be formed to seek an executive director.

A report from Grady C. Cothen, president of Baptist Cooperative Missions Program Inc., revealed that during the new agency's first quarter of operations — October-December 1990 — more than \$258,000 was received from 31 churches and nearly 100 individuals. Cothen added that during the first two weeks of 1991, nine additional churches began sending the national portion of their mission gifts to BCMP Inc., created last summer as an alternative receiving and disbursing mechanism for congregations which no longer choose to send mission funds through the SBC Executive Committee.

Based on reports from numerous additional churches whose budget years began Jan. 1, sizable increases in receipts at BCMP are expected in coming months. In order to encourage and inform other congregations about the new agency, interim steering committee members agreed to organize a network of trained volunteers to promote BCMP as an alternative to the Executive Committee.

Haste is executive director, Southern Baptist Alliance.

Home Board commissions thirty-nine missionaries

DULUTH, Ga. (BP) — "Take your life and abandon it completely at the feet of Jesus," Larry Lewis urged 39 missionaries commissioned by the Home Mission Board Jan. 20.

Lewis, HMB president, delivered the charge to missionaries during a commissioning service at First Church, Duluth, Ga. The 39 missionaries commissioned will serve in 18 states in a variety of roles, from

church starting to Baptist Center ministries.

Speaking from Matthew 26, Lewis charged the missionaries to be like the woman who anointed Jesus with oil. "A good work is not a big church, a big building or a big budget," he said. "A good work is when someone is willing to take his life and pour it out at the feet of Jesus."

Bills before the legislature

The legislature is moving rapidly to address well over 2700 bills and resolutions. Many of these bills and resolutions are an affront to good government, common sense, and morality. The blatant attempt to force a radical change in the nature of the state can be seen in the context of bills addressed under headings such as alcohol and gambling. Other bills which would restrict abortion on demand, control drugs, protect the environment, and improve obscenity laws are prone to be lost in the race to "accomplish something to tell the people back home."

Committees are meeting and decisions are being made on legislation which would greatly impact the lives of most citizens. Now is the time to inform your legislator of your opinions on many of the matters listed below. Persons wishing to contact their representative or senator may do so by writing them at Box 1018, Jackson, MS 39205, or calling them at 359-3770.

HB 327 provides that before a physician performs an abortion on any woman who is 24 or more weeks pregnant that the viability of the unborn child be determined. The law would prohibit the abortion of a viable unborn child unless necessary to preserve the life or health of the woman.

HB 351 would legalize the manufacture, sale, distribution, possession, and transportation of intoxicating li-

quors in the state. This bill would radically expand the rights given to alcohol sellers and would allow the manufacture of liquor in the state.

HB 1365 and SB 2475 would authorize beer sales with legal gambling. Just what we need; angry losers getting drunk while gambling. Another example of "good" government at work.

HB 85 would provide criminal penalties for failure to report neglected or abused children. This could put teeth into the Mandated Reporting Act.

HCR 35, 37, 38, 50, 52, 78, HB 530, and SCR 534 address the question of initiative and referendum which is being sought to get around the constitutional prohibition against lottery.

HB 84 would not allow for a suspended sentence or parole for a person convicted of selling drugs to a minor. In essence, sell to a kid, and go to jail, period.

SB 2107 would increase the penalties for the violation of certain drug laws.

HB 88 would prohibit weapons on public school premises.

HB 245 would provide that any pupil has the option of reciting the pledge of allegiance to the U.S. flag each school day. It would also provide that no student shall be disciplined or penalized for not reciting such a pledge.

There have been approximately six-

ty bills introduced which address some aspect of environmental pollution, standards, and/or required permissions. Specifics about these bills are available from the Christian Action Commission.

HCR 6 and HCR 41 would amend the constitution to authorize a state lottery. This is another attempt to make what has been illegal and criminal for 100 years legal so special interests from out of state can profit from the misfortune of citizens of the state.

HB 519 would authorize pari-mutuel and off-track betting.

HB 1206 would require that local fees received from gambling shall go to schools.

HB 1, HCR 25, HCR 26 would reduce the size of the state legislature in an attempt to reduce state expenditures.

HB 164 would prohibit smoking at public high schools.

SB 2535 would prohibit the display of obscene material.

Your attention is needed immediately. Your representative and senator need to hear from you today. Your card, letter, and/or call could be the key to restoring the historic ethical framework of the state. Your Christian Action Commission stands ready to assist the membership of the 2,000 churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention and can be contacted at Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, 968-3800.

Devotional

Jesus Only

By J. Garland McKee
Mark 9:2-9; 14:29

One of the most dramatic events in the earthly ministry of Jesus was the transfiguration experience. Jesus' person and figure was seen in such fashion that we do not find any semblance or likeness to it at any other time while here on earth.



McKee

There on the mount of transfiguration Jesus was praying while Peter, James, and John slept. As a result of the incomparable brightness of the person of Jesus, the disciples awakened. To their amazement, they witnessed Moses and Elijah talking with Jesus. This was Moses' first time to step foot in the Promised Land.

Peter began to talk as was usual procedure for him in most any circumstance. Through sleep-blurred eyes, he saw and recognized the two figures with Jesus to be Moses and Elijah. In the clutches of fear and excitement he blurted out, "Master, it is good for you to be here; and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elijah." Then a cloud overshadowed them and the voice of God spoke, "This is my beloved Son; hear him. And suddenly, when they had looked round about, they saw no man any more, save Jesus only with themselves."

JESUS ONLY needs to be the watchword for our day and age. Jesus only needs to be the banner under which we march. Mississippi and our world are filled with discontent, discouragement, and decadence. Our society continually seeks to dig out from under dungeons of discontent, discouragement, and cesspools of decadence by building tabernacles and monuments. We become obsessed to have days to honor men but nonchalantly note the continual practice of men dishonoring Jesus on his Sunday.

We now hear a voice from the Middle East saying to his consistency that they are engaged in a "Holy War." Few things are as unholy as war. How tragic that our world hears so many religious sounding terms that contain no Christian substance. A Christian experience may be religious, but a religious experience is seldom Christian.

Let us not build tabernacles on the mountain but rather have mountain-top experiences where we see and hear Jesus only and then go to the valley where the harrowed, harassed, and hurting are to be found.

May we as Mississippi Baptists band together in one accord to accomplish our Christian purpose: "Helping to Win Mississippi and the World to Jesus."

McKee is director of evangelism, MBCB.

Bulgarians begin Christian medical group

VARNA, BULGARIA (ebps) — BULGARIAN BAPTISTS have taken the initiative in establishing the first Christian organization in their country for people working in the field of medicine. The constitutional meeting was held in the town of Kazanlak in the first week of December, 1990. The new organization has two purposes: to spread the Good News among medical workers, and to use their profession to help, "with Christian responsibility, the suffering Bulgarian nation."

Encouraging ministers, wives, aim of Spring Bible Break-Away

NASHVILLE — "Encouragement for Ministry/Enrichment for Living," is both the theme and purpose of the 1991 Spring Bible Break-Away, April 15-18, at Ridgecrest (N.C.) Baptist Conference Center.

Sponsored by the Sunday School Board's Church Administration Department, the conference is open to all Southern Baptist ministers and their spouses. Worship leaders will be Frank Pollard, pastor of First Church, Jackson; and Bob Mulloy, director of the music business program at Belmont College in Nashville.

Bible study leaders for the conference and their topics are: James Harvey, consultant in the board's Sunday School Growth and Administration Department, "Isaiah: January Bible Study"; Brooks Faulkner, senior manager in the Church Administration Department, "Sermon on the Mount: Enrichment for the Journey"; and D.G. McCoury, pastoral leadership consultant in the Church Administration Department, "Preaching from Philippians: Epistle of Encouragement."

Enrichment leaders include McCoury and his wife, Berlee; Bruce Grubbs, manager of the pastoral leadership/administration section of the Church Administration Department, and his wife, Jewell; and Tim Holcomb, a consultant in the department.

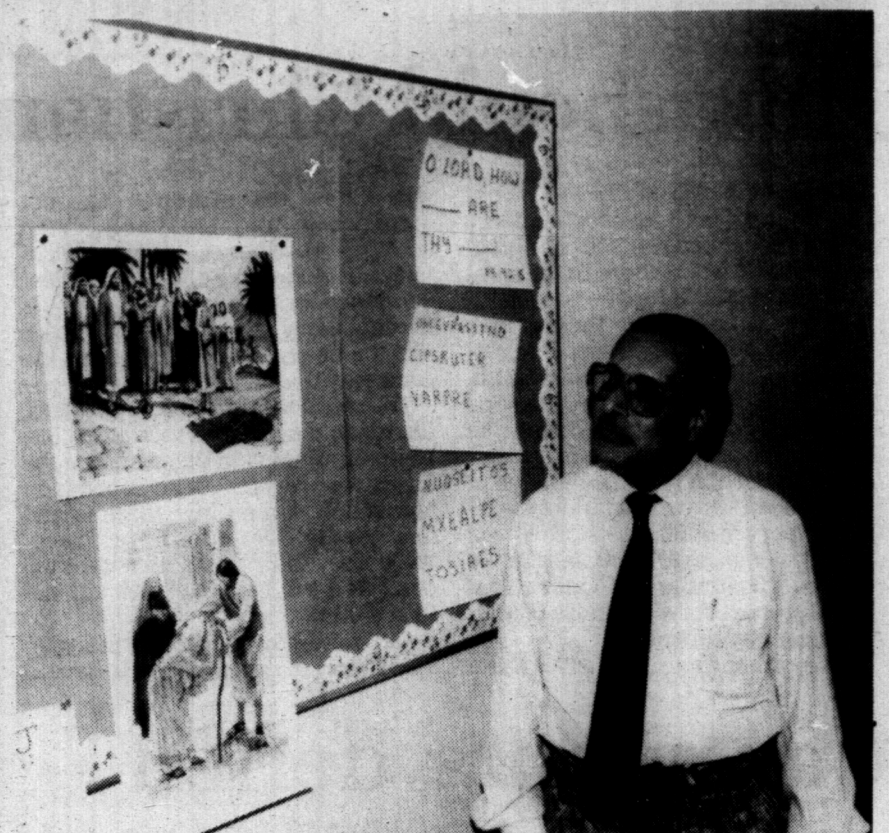
The cost of the conference is \$245 per couple. The cost includes three nights, lodging and eight meals.

For more information contact Tim Holcomb in the Church Administration Department, (615) 251-2915.

The teacher asked the third graders if they knew the last line of The Star Spangled Banner.

Willie raised his hand.

He said: "And the home of the brave. Play ball."



Francis Fahim Habashy

Arab pastor visits Clinton

By Guy Henderson

Francis Fahim Habashy, native of Cairo, Egypt, and now pastor of the Evangelical Church in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, recently visited in Clinton. He is attending a witness training class, Evangelical Explosion, at the Morrison Heights Church.

Habashy, married and the father of four children, has pastored the Abu Dhabi church for over a year. He said the primary service is on Friday, and more than 100 attend. Most of the believers are from other countries. He described their service as being similar to American churches, with singing, a gospel message, and prayer.

Bible school is provided for 75 children on Thursday afternoon and there is a Sunday evening Bible study. They share a building with English, Korean, and Philippine congrega-

tions. He is not permitted to witness to local Moslems.

The Arab pastor described the U.A.E. as having many foreign workers, and a fairly good standard of living with plenty of food. Most families own cars.

In America, Habashy said he was impressed most by the freedom. "Your freedom to worship is wonderful, and you have so many churches. Also, the fellowship is so good."

He expressed amazement at the spread of Islam in the U.S.A. "You should not permit mosques to be built here if they will not permit churches to be built in Arab nations."

Habashy also said the divorce rate and family disunity in America was disappointing.

He plans to remain in Mississippi for several days before returning to his church.

Hinds-Madison admonishes churches on baptism

The moderator of the Hinds-Madison Baptist Association has sent a letter to "admonish all member churches" concerning practices related to baptism.

Gowan Ellis, pastor of First Church, Terry, wrote that he was instructed by the association's Executive Board to send the letter. This came out of an informal investigation following allegations that two member churches accepted for membership persons who had not been immersed.

The letter was sent "to remind" churches that the association's constitution adheres to the Baptist Faith and Message, quoting it, "Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer in water in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. It is an act of obedience symbolizing the believer's faith in a crucified, buried, and risen Savior, the believer's death to sin, the burial of the old life, and the resurrection to walk in newness of life in Christ Jesus. It is a testimony of his faith in the final resurrection of the dead. Being a church ordinance, it is a prerequisite to the privilege of church membership and the Lord's Supper."

Ellis wrote, "People who are unwilling to be immersed are really not Baptist and do not need to be members of a Baptist Church. There

are other ways of fellowshiping with non-Baptists such as associate membership where they are part of the fellowship but have no voting rights nor can letters be issued to a sister Baptist Church in their behalf."

The letter concludes, "... we admonish all member churches to seek, as soon as possible, to discontinue this practice and give our Lord the obedience which He deserves."

Director of Missions, J. W. Brister said the letter's intent was to "tell them in love this thing ought not to be and let them judge accordingly." He said no further action was planned.

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Christians fear war will mar Mideast ministry

By Mike Creswell

LARNACA, Cyprus (BP) — Even before the bombs have stopped bursting or missiles finished flying in the Gulf war, Christian workers in the Middle East are concerned about future prospects for ministry in the region.

The Middle East has long been one of the most difficult places for Christian outreach in the world, and workers fear the new hostilities may make work even harder.

Many Muslims, including the Palestinians living in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza, have pinned their hopes for a boost in prestige and living standards on Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The fact that nations such as the United States and Great Britain have led an offensive against Saddam after his invasion of Kuwait has aroused bitter resentment in the minds of many.

Issues are seldom simple in the region, but conflicts include West vs. East, Christians vs. Muslims, rich vs. poor and haves vs. have-nots. Many Christian workers, even as they anxiously eye the conflict, wonder what the future holds in a Middle East that seems to be reshaping itself before them.

Tensions between Christians and Muslims are much higher, said one worker in the region.

"Predictions are that this could hurt Christian-Muslim relationships for 100 years," he said. "A realignment of Arab nations will create a quagmire of relations we (Americans) don't understand. Americans think of it as a police action, but more is involved."

Some say the hard feelings many Muslims already harbor toward Christians are getting mixed up with

a hatred of America, like their loathing of Israel.

Describing the general Muslim view held by many, an Arab Christian said, "Missionaries come from America and Americans are thought to be those who started the war. It's not important who started the action last August — the bombardment was started by the Americans. People are upset because of the bloodshed, the torn loyalties."

Some positive signs have emerged during the conflict. Government leaders in Yemen promised to protect Southern Baptist personnel at a hospital in Jibla, telling them they are still wanted and needed. The government even sent extra troops to guard the hospital.

However, many indications point to worsening Muslim-Christian relations.

A Southern Baptist worker who evacuated with her family said Arab Christians she knows "are concerned for the future, but aren't afraid." But one Arab believer said, "If they start killing you because you're American, they'll kill us too, because we're associated with you." She also wept.

Dale Thorne, who directs Southern Baptist work in the Middle East, agreed with many indicators of worsening conditions, but said God's clear instruction to share the gospel takes precedence. "We feel that Jesus is the hope for us and for all people," he said, quoting Colossians.

"Pray with us that the loving and caring personal relationships we have built up with individual Arab Muslims through the years can be strong enough to stand amid this conflict.

Creswell writes for FMB.



TALKING IT OUT — On the island nation of Cyprus, Southern Baptist workers who evacuated from their posts in the Mideast just before the Gulf war started discuss what might happen next. Others have gone on to the United States or to

temporary quarters in Egypt. "I don't think we're talking about a long-term evacuation," said an optimistic David Smith, who evacuated from Israel with his wife and two children. Others aren't so sure. (BP photo by Mike Creswell)

Foreign missionaries face threat of terrorism

By Mary E. Speidel

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — "Face after face after face" flashed through her mind.

When she learned allied missiles had hit Iraq Jan. 17, "All I could see was faces," said a Southern Baptist representative now in Western Europe.

The faces were of Arab friends she made while working in the Middle East for more than a decade. "I know so many people there," she said of the region. "I'm praying that somehow out of this God would work some kind of miracle."

The woman was among many Southern Baptist missionaries worldwide who prayed for miracles as the Gulf war began Jan. 17. And as war broke out, foreign missionaries — including those living outside the Middle East — realized they could be potential targets of terrorism against Americans abroad.

Iraq has warned a U.S. attack would cause that nation to unleash a wave of terrorism against American targets. In light of the threat, airports and U.S. military bases around the world have stepped up security.

The U.S. State Department has issued a travel advisory warning all Americans abroad to "be aware of the threat of terrorist actions against U.S. citizens or property in other locations worldwide." The advisory gives specific warnings for Europe, north Africa, the Persian Gulf region and south Asia.

Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board officials in Richmond have sent the advisory to mission administrators living overseas, according to board officials. Those administrators decide how best to share the information with missionaries on the field, officials said.

Keith Parker, the board's area director for Europe, issued a statement Jan. 17 to all mission chairmen in Europe. He advised missionaries to

"be alert and have a low profile," to keep in touch with the nearest American consulate and to be aware of anyone who may be acting suspiciously.

Parker pointed out that Americans in Europe have lived with the threat of terrorism for years. "This is not something new," he said, naming several terrorist groups that have been active throughout Europe.

"You can go to almost every country or every part of Europe and find most of our missionaries have learned over the years how to avoid the places where these folks (terrorist groups) might be focusing their attention," he said.

Americans abroad: "Be aware of threat of terrorist actions . . ."

John Faulkner, area director of eastern and southern Africa missions, reported that the State Department travel advisory has been sent to every missionary in his area along with other security information. "Please assure parents, families and relatives that missionaries are being careful," Faulkner told officials in Richmond.

In addition, officials in the board's volunteer department are informing Southern Baptist volunteers of the travel advisory. Officials planned to meet Jan. 18 to discuss further details of volunteer travel. Several overseas trips for Foreign Mission Board staff members already have been postponed because of the advisory.

Several Southern Baptist representatives in Europe contacted by Baptist Press said they were heeding the State Department advisory.

"We're keeping a low profile as

Americans," said one representative in Western Europe. He said he and his family are avoiding any America-affiliated institutions and are careful about not speaking English to one another while outside their home.

News reports said the European countries at greatest risk for potential terrorism are Germany, France, and England. Police across Europe have tightened security at airports, embassies and other places considered possible targets of terrorism. American schools were closed as a precaution in some European cities.

As tensions began to mount in various parts of the world earlier this year, the Foreign Mission Board produced a new crisis manual for missionaries, according to John Cheyne, associate director of research and planning.

The manual suggests precautions missionaries can take in a variety of crisis situations, including potential terrorism. It incorporates information from a 1986 document, "Awareness Document on Field Dangers," which suggests ways missionaries can safeguard against terrorism.

The new manual was sent recently to area administrators living overseas. Each administrator will decide how to best share the information with individual missionaries in his area, Cheyne said.

Another factor is potential mission property loss. Many missionaries forced to leave Liberia last year lost their belongings because of civil war. The loss may increase the Foreign Mission Board's personal property insurance premiums, said Don Listrom, director of the missionary benefits department. If property losses occur in Middle East because of war or terrorism, they will add to the growing expense of supporting missionaries.

Speidel writes for FMB and Donald D. Martin, also writes for FMB, contributed to this story.

Baptist workers endure Iraqi missile attack

By Mike Creswell

NOTE: Mike Creswell, Baptist Press correspondent for Europe and the Middle East, is continuing to cover the impact of the gulf war from a base in Cyprus.

LARNACA, Cyprus (BP) — Southern Baptist personnel in Israel wore gas masks and sat huddled in sealed rooms as missiles from Iraq screamed through the air, exploding close enough for some to hear the blasts and feel the shock vibrations during early morning hours Jan. 18.

No Southern Baptist workers were injured as Iraqi missiles struck Tel Aviv and another struck in Haifa just after 2 a.m.

David Groseclose of Melbourne, Fla., who lives in central Haifa, guessed the missile that hit his city may have impacted six miles away, close enough for him to hear the explosion.

Groseclose, who is single, said it was a frightening experience. "You're awakened from sleep by sirens. Your heart starts beating quickly. You're nervous. You don't know if it's just a drill. You can't be sure, so you turn the light on. You get up and start looking for your gas mask. You turn the radio on, because that will tell you if it's real or not."

"Then you hear BOOM, BOOM. You know it's real. You put your gas mask on. It's uncomfortable. You want to see what the booms are, but you don't go out."

Dale Thorne, area director for Southern Baptist work in the Middle East, and Bob Fields, associate director, were up most of the night calling personnel in Israel to ascertain their safety. There was some question for several hours about the status of volunteer Suzanne Griffin, who had been scheduled to leave Tel Aviv on a flight just minutes after the missiles landed.

The Iraqi attack started just 20 minutes before Griffin, of Fayetteville, Ark., was scheduled to leave Tel Aviv on a 2:30 a.m. Tower Air jetliner with an undisclosed number of passengers. The attack did not disrupt the jet's departure, according to the New York-based company.

The flight stopped in Brussels, Belgium, where Griffin boarded a Sabena Airlines jet scheduled to arrive first in Boston at 1:30 p.m. EST Jan. 18 then in Atlanta at 5 p.m. Sabena officials confirmed Griffin was on the flight, said her sister, Tiffany Matherly of Fayetteville.

Griffin had completed two years of work in Israel as a Southern Baptist volunteer.

Communicating with Southern Baptist workers in Israel was complicated by jammed telephone lines, making phone calls into the country difficult. Also, telephones of some workers were not in their sealed safe rooms, and during alerts they were unable to leave their rooms to answer calls.

Tupelo's Buchanans provide books to the world

By Shannon T. Simpson

Last November, the National Fellowship of Baptist Men presented the Owen Cooper Award to Hal Buchanan of Tupelo for his work with Book-Link ministry.

There must have been a name left off the award plaque, that of Mrs. Hal Buchanan, Dot to anyone who knows her. Mrs. Buchanan has been a vital part of the operation of Book-Link out of the Buchanan home since it began in 1988.

Book-Link was originally conceived as a project for the National Fellowship of Baptist Educators. The Buchanans travelled to Thailand in 1986, then attended a subsequent meeting in Atlanta to form the NFBE, modelled after the fellowship of Baptist educators here in Mississippi.

Owen Cooper, former president of the Southern Baptist Convention, suggested the idea of a book project to Buchanan in 1985. At the time, Buchanan was a principal in Yazoo City. Cooper told Buchanan of all the countries he had visited that could benefit from books donated by pastors, churches, and individuals. Poor countries all over the world could use those books to educate their children, adults, and pastoral students, Cooper said.

So, in 1986, when Buchanan "finally got around to it," he became the first president of the NFBE. While in that capacity, he heard of a project in Lexington, Ky. that had been shipping books around the world for about 19 years, the International Book Project. It was started by a woman in the basement of her home, and later grew into the large operation the Buchanans visited.

It was then they decided shipping books would be a good project for the NFBE, potentially involving thousands of people.

"The fellowship asked if I wanted to direct it until they could find someone else," Buchanan remembers. "I said yes, and I'm still here!"

But, after a while, Buchanan concluded that the fellowship wasn't working very hard to find his replacement. "I told Larry Cox (of the fellowship) that it wasn't going to work," said Buchanan. "Dot and I were sometimes working up to 16 hours a day on both these things. It was like having two full time jobs. I didn't have a spare minute. So, I told them to find another NFBE coordinator, and I would keep Book-Link."

It took the NFBE almost a year to find someone to take over as coordinator, and the Buchanans "nearly burned out" before they were relieved of the duty.



Dot Buchanan holds up copies of "Searchers" series Sunday School lessons in the warehouse of the Buchanan home.

But, they found they enjoyed contacting the missionaries with whom they made connections, wrapping books for shipment, and sorting through their donations to match books with needs requests. Buying a personal computer and typewriter for Book-Link, they found it close kin to setting up a small business.

They set up storage space in what they term their "warehouse," a room built onto an office at one end of their home. Books line the walls and floors of this warehouse. In boxes and on shelves, books of every conceivable size, shape, and color, on every imaginable religious topic lie waiting to be needed by someone overseas. Almost 60 percent of the books will end up in Nigeria, the Philippines, Brazil, Uganda, Zambia, or Liberia. One hundred and fifteen shipments have been made to those countries alone. Book-Link has shipped a total of over 29,326 items (including books, journals, tapes, and tracts) to 45 countries and five states.

Most of their contacts are made through Foreign Mission Board missionaries. The Book-Link cataloging system even uses FMB area and country numbers to list shipments. A missionary will write to Book-Link with requests, and the Buchanans will fill those requests as they are able. The

most needed items are atlases, Bible dictionaries, concordances, Bible handbooks, study Bibles, and commentaries.

"These are valuable tools for ministers in training," says Mrs. Buchanan. "It's also important that they train in the English language. Some of them will write and tell us their children are learning in English. For that, these reference books are truly invaluable."

"The world needs our books," says Buchanan. "We all have more than we need. It would be ideal if we could get each church in Mississippi to appoint a representative who would organize book drives. Someone who would say, 'Bring your books to church on such-and-such a day for the Book-Link cause. The world can benefit from your books.'"

Book-Link provides the Buchanans with much joy. They say the greatest motivation comes from relationships they have established all over the world through this ministry.

"The one story that has touched me most is about this Pakistani evangelist in London," tells Mrs. Buchanan. "The FMB wrote to tell us they were sending him to school there, and asked if there were any books we could send to help him get started. So, when this young man arrived in Lon-

don, there was a box of books waiting for him. He somehow procured an extra room in his dorm, and immediately turned it into a library so the other students could come and borrow from him. We've sent him four or five more boxes since then. This man is ministering to every Asian he can get to, and has started work on an Asian study Bible. The blessings just multiply."

Another amazing story is that of the Buchanans' work with the International Baptist Lay Academy in Budapest, Hungary. Co-director for the IBLA is Mississippian Errol Simmons, who solicited Book-Link's help to provide 60 Discipleship Study Bibles to begin teaching lay preachers there. When the Buchanans heard of Simmons' need, they approached a fellow member of Calvary Church, Tupelo. That man became so excited about helping the IBLA that he donated all 60 of the needed study Bibles. Simmons was able to provide each student his own Bible, a fact that brought some of them to tears.

"Then, you get these letters from people like Ken Lawson, pastor of First Baptist Church of Rome," inserts Mrs. Buchanan, "telling us he appreciates so much what we have sent him, the books we provide. Then he tells us he now has the largest free-lending library of the English language in Rome!"

"And there are letters like the ones we get from Alma Rohms in Nigeria," says Buchanan. "She teaches a little high school/preparatory school for ministers there. Those people love her so much, they made her a chief! She's really another Lottie Moon; she gives these people her whole life. She sends letters that make us feel so good. That keeps us going."

The Buchanans say they are also affirmed in their work by the "windfalls" and "pennies from heaven" they receive at regular intervals. Recently, a South Carolina bookstore closed, and Book-Link received a large part of its inventory. A man living in Saltillo comes to Tupelo every week, bringing whatever he can that will be of use to Book-Link.

"The thing that really motivates people in missions," says Mrs. Buchanan. "That's how we got motivated, that's what motivated Owen Cooper. Eugene Dobbs (now administrative assistant of ministry, MBCB) and his wife went to Africa. While they were there, someone said, 'You're from Mississippi? Come and let us show you our library from Book-Link.' His wife hit the ground running when they got home, and they show-

ed up here not too long after that with a whole van full of books."

Normally, Book-Link makes about ten shipments a month. A small shipment will consist of 30-40 books. Each shipment travels fourth class by surface mail, taking three to six months to reach its destination. One shipment took a year to arrive.

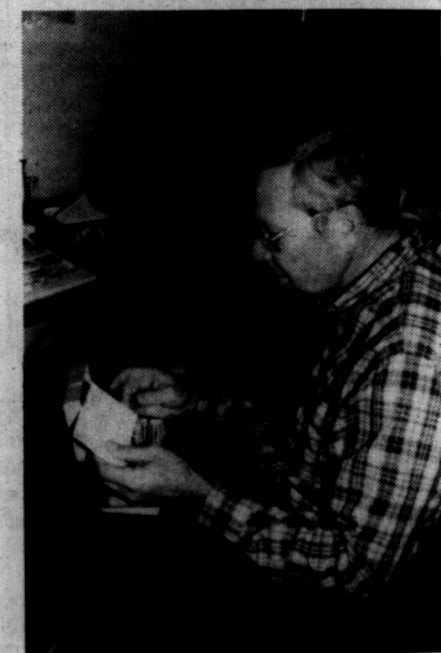
Most wrapping materials are donated, and gifts designated for Book-Link are often made through its parent organization, Books For The World in Yazoo City, another brainchild of Owen Cooper. Books For The World (BFTW) also gives Book-Link \$10,000 a year for operating expenses.

"That really gives us a boost," says Buchanan, "but it's not much compared to what we have to use every month to mail these books. But if people make donations designated for Book-Link, we will receive that money on top of what we get from BFTW."

Though the Buchanans plan to maintain the Book-Link ministry, they hope to be able to turn it over to someone "real competent" sometime next year. Both want to pursue their love of missions by volunteering for projects overseas. They believe that volunteer missions will be the thrust that will help Southern Baptists reach the world.

Until then, "... we'll be enjoying our lives. Now that we've retired, it's the only time we haven't had something to worry about."

Simpson is staff writer and proof-reader, BAPTIST RECORD.



In the office of the Book-Link ministry, Hal Buchanan looks through a card file for shipment information.

Morgan City Church hears news of S. Africa, from former pastor

By Sarah Kimbrough

At Morgan City Church, Morgan City, a former pastor who is now a missionary in South Africa, returned to preach on Dec. 16, 1990. Glenn Simmons, his wife Sherrie, and their four children are on furlough from Johannesburg, where he is professor of theology at Afrikaans Baptist Seminary.

His work at the seminary is carried on entirely in Afrikaans, the language that the Simmons had to learn before going to South Africa.

In his morning message Dec. 16 to the Morgan City Church, Simmons preached from Galatians 4:4, 5 — "in the fullness of time." He explained that he and his family, feeling God's call to missions, answered the call that opened up to them "in the fullness

of God's time."

Because of 13 years of a civil war in Mozambique, South Africa has been deluged with refugees from that country, he said. They came with nothing but the clothes on their backs and most of them gather in crude, unhealthy refugee camps called squatters' camps. They live in huts made of cardboard, tin, or any available material. There is no water, no sanitary or medical facilities.

The Simmons drive five or six miles to these camps where they set up a makeshift clinic. Mrs. Simmons, a registered nurse, gives first aid to the many who need it. She also gives immunization shots, provided by the public health service of South Africa. Each day these desperate people go



Glenn Simmons

into the larger towns seeking work. They do any kind of odd jobs for a small wage or for food. As the missionaries help to meet the physical needs, they also seek to minister to spiritual needs.

At the evening service in Morgan City, Simmons showed slides of his work and the countryside of South Africa.

What contrasts there are: the poverty and squalor in the squatters' camps and the beautiful mountains, waterfalls, and wilderness of the countryside around the modern city of Johannesburg!

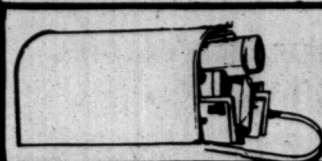
The Simmons children attend the public schools of Johannesburg. The schools are excellent, based on the

schools of England. Jennifer, a senior in high school, rides the city bus to school. The younger children walk the 1-1/2 blocks from their home to their school.

"Home" is an attractive house provided by the Foreign Mission Board. It is surrounded by trees and flowerbeds, and the yard is enclosed by a high fence with a wrought iron gate.

Although the fighting between tribes in South Africa is constantly going on, the missionaries say they are in no danger. They are 25 to 30 miles from the main trouble spots.

Mrs. Kimbrough is a member of the Morgan City Church.



Letters to the editor

Oldest church pianist?

Her husband, Sam, gave her two good pieces of advice before he died, Montye Gillon said. And she has followed them: "1. Don't feel sorry for yourself. 2. Don't live in the past." Her wide interests are geared to today, not yesterday.

"You're probably the oldest church pianist in the state," I ventured.

"I don't FEEL old," she said. After all, she won't be 90 until Aug. 7.

Every Sunday she plays the piano for three services — morning and evening at Gore Springs Baptist Church, where she's a member, and early morning at Gore Springs Methodist. (In 1984, she heard the Methodist church needed a pianist. "I felt that the Holy Spirit was saying to me, 'Why don't you volunteer to play for them?' So I did.")

Besides her music, she gardens, writes, cooks, keeps up with family activities, attends home demonstration and community club meetings, teaches Sunday School.

"My good health," she said, "I suspect is due to my love of working outdoors." Flower and vegetable gardens in her yard are her own handiwork. Canning and freezing her own produce kept her busy last summer, at her house a few miles east of Grenada, next door to one of her sons, where paintings by her daughter grace the walls and a large crabapple tree stands watch over the garden path.

All year long she stays busy getting Christmas presents ready to give the 67 members of her family — three sons, Earl, Tom, and Bobby; one daughter, Joy; 16 grandchildren; 27 great-grandchildren; and some spouses. She celebrated Christmas 1990 in Michigan at the house of a granddaughter, Peggy (Mrs. Bruce) Van Wagoner. Another of her granddaughters, Martha (Mrs. Jerrell) Hutson, is a former neighbor of ours in Clinton.

While we were talking, she served a delicious lime jello salad. When W.D. and I were leaving, she gave us a canister of divinity candy she'd made. "One dish that's special in our family," she said, "contains only four ingredients — one cup of peach pie filling, one package of frozen strawberries, two bananas, and some black grapes."

"I love people," she declared. "I don't know how I could live without others." From the '40s until 1986, she wrote a column about Gore Springs people and events, for a Grenada newspaper. At her church, she teaches the Dorcas class of adult women in Sunday School and is the Sunday School secretary.

She was born Montye Holland at Saboula in Calhoun County. Her childhood was spent in east Grenada County and in Grenada, where at 12 she was baptized at First Baptist Church. Also at 12 she first began playing the pump organ. (Her oldest sister taught piano for 40 years.) She was graduated from Grenada High School; while enrolled at Bennett Academy (which became Wood Junior College), she studied piano.

At one time, there were four quarter-time churches in and around Gore Springs. She and Samuel Gillon, the farmer she had married, would go to one of them each Sunday — Gore Springs Methodist, Pleasant Grove, Providence, or Graysport, which was later covered by water when a dam

was built. She played the piano for all of them. Sam sang bass.

Then, along with Pastor Gwin Middleton and others, the Gillons helped to organize the Gore Springs Baptist Church, and she began playing piano there. In neighboring churches, she sometimes played piano or organ for revivals. (Before rural communities enjoyed electricity, the organist, she remembers, would get



Montye Gillon

warm from pumping and playing. Men would stand by the kerosene lamps placed on the organ and fan the organist.)

Church pianist somewhere since the 40s: I figure that is around 50 years.

Besides her music, she had a career as postmaster for 23½ years at Graysport and Gore Springs, and retired from that at age 70. "It takes as much loyalty to be a postmaster as to be a minister," she said. "It's a commitment."

A Montye Gillon Endowment Fund has thus far paid for four children to take piano lessons.

Montye's favorite hymn? "Leaning on the Everlasting Arms." "What a fellowship..." she mused. "This phrase strikes me. There is nothing like Christian fellowship!"

Montye's Divinity

3 c. sugar; 1/2 cup water; 1/2 cup white Karo; pinch of salt; 2 egg whites; 1 ts. vanilla; 1-1/2 c. slightly toasted pecans.

Start beating egg whites in large mixing bowl. Combine sugar, water, Karo, and salt in boiler. Stir and cook to soft ball stage when dropped in cold water. Pour half of hot syrup over stiffly beaten egg whites, beating constantly. Quickly place remaining syrup over heat and let come to hard boil. Pour into egg whites, beating constantly. Add vanilla and nuts. Drop from spoon onto waxed paper. Makes about 38 pieces. "I prefer adding half of hot syrup at the time to egg whites, but it may be added all at one time. The extra cooking for syrup, second time, assures success."

Ask, seek, and knock

Editor:

Mrs. Regina Gunter, secretary-treasurer of the Mississippi Baptist Nursing Fellowship, is an active member in our church, Southside Baptist. She has made six trips to Guatemala. This last trip a young Guatemalan was brought in to have heart surgery. There was much difficulty in gaining approval and accumulating all the necessary records for doctors.

Hector Hernandez has received much attention in the last days. Evangelist Danny Lafferty has cared for Hector and made many contacts to secure help for him.

Doctors Bobby Heath, Tom Edwards, and McMullin had made commitments of their services on a voluntary basis.

I am thankful for Danny Lafferty's persistence and tenacity in this effort to extend the life of this child who had no hope whatsoever without the concern and effort of many people. It is to the praise of our Heavenly Father that as I write this letter that University Hospital has allowed this surgery to be carried out. Mrs. Gunter is assisting in the surgery.

I am amazed at the total story of how God has allowed this to transpire. It is one in which truly the omnipotence of our Heavenly Father is unquestionably recognized. Most are aware of how much red tape and bureaucracy exist today. It does seem to be an invariable jungle. It can be a convenience to some as well as an insurmountable inconvenience to others.

This story is a validation to the promises of the Lord Jesus who says: ask, seek, and knock; believe without wavering, and say unto a mountain to be thou removed into the sea. Praise his wonderful name. It is a declaration of the faithfulness of God. I also see the way that God can work through a dedicated servant. It shows too that we, in seeking ministries to help, have also created a system that hinders and prevents some ministries to be performed.

The stay in the hospital will be an expense to be paid by Danny Lafferty Evangelistic Association. Hopefully there are Mississippians who are willing to contribute to the paying of this financial debt. As has been said by nurse Gunter, the money will come. I think that it would be a blessing to many who will miss the opportunity if they don't know about it.

In his service-seeking a close daily walk with Jesus.

Tom Miller, pastor
Southside, Lucedale

Thanks from Dolers

Dear Editor and

Mississippi Baptist friends,

Scotti and I would like to say thanks to you as our Mississippi Baptist family for your tremendous amount of support during her two-year illness and her heart-double lung transplant on August 15, 1990. The many prayers and other expressions of support have strengthened us as we have tried to positively deal with our personal devastation and pain. We have definitely felt the love and care of Mississippi Baptists.

After 54 days in the intensive care unit and an additional 23 days in a regular hospital room Scotti has made a remarkable recovery from the surgery. Due to modern medicine, the generosity of a teenager's parents whose child tragically died in an accident, the support of family and friends, and to the life giving power of our Lord, the outlook for her future is excellent.

We are very thankful in a new kind of way for our church, our family, our friends, excellent insurance coverage through the Annuity Board, and for the opportunity to know the real meaning of the verse which says, "This is the day that the Lord hath made, we will rejoice and be glad in it."

Jon Doler, pastor
FBC, Leland

Good news

Editor:

In these days of bad news, let me share some good news with the people of Mississippi.

First, as pastor of Northeast Baptist Mission in Lauderdale County, let me thank the Baptists of Mississippi for their support of the Cooperative Program and special mission gifts. Our mission would not have been possible without gifts through the Cooperative Program, state mission gifts, and dozens of friends in Mississippi.

Second, I want to report something unusual that took place in our association during the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. The Kewane Baptist Church, pastored by Gordon Samsing, gave over \$2,500 to the offering. On this Sunday a total of 10 people were in attendance.

The Liberty Baptist Church, pastored by Ed Smith, is on a dirt road some two miles from the nearest house. The Sunday of the mission offering, 42 people attended. The offering was over \$5,000.

Northeast Mission gave over \$900

which was 13 times more than the previous two years.

Just thought that I would share some good news instead of gloom. Let us pray together, witness together, serve together, and give together as we praise God.

William F. Evans, pastor
Northeast Baptist Mission
Meridian

"Just be there"

Editor:

I want to applaud your editorial "Acquainted with Grief" in the Jan. 17 issue of the Baptist Record. If only the message you shared could be read and taken to heart by every Christian in every church! Unfortunately, there are so many hurting people who have been shown very little compassion by the church. I have seen this all too often. The widow whom you quoted was fortunate indeed, for love is something you do; it requires action.

Having been through some terrible close family losses and several long illnesses, I speak from experience. In each case, I have never once said, "Why me, Lord?" But many times I have almost been to the point of withdrawal because of the lack of evident support and concern by Christian people. If one does not know what to say, he can always do something. After the first two weeks or so of grief, it seems one is supposed to return to normalcy, whatever that is. Life does go on, but nothing is ever normal again, and who is to say when one should be over the grief? Actually, one never gets over the grief; he learns to live and adjust to it.

As the widow stated, "just be there." Any little act of kindness and concern (even a visit) will endear one to a hurting heart and help that one to go on with whatever else life may offer. It is one thing to say, "I am praying for you" (and that is vital), but it is another to do something about it.

Sometimes one needs a shoulder to cry on or someone who will just listen.

One church rallied when a young mother died suddenly leaving very young children and a husband. For weeks afterwards different families prepared and delivered a full meal every day until a housekeeper was found. One Christian lady took charge of the infant child both day and night. That was Christianity in action!

Thank you again for your insight into this critical problem. May God show his people how to minister to his hurting people — and ministering to non-Christians can show them the love of Christ.

Name withheld by editor

China, Mongolia want more teachers

RICHMOND, Va. — Educational institutions in China and Mongolia are asking for 39 Southern Baptist teachers next fall.

Cooperative Services International, the Southern Baptist aid organization that sponsors teachers and other workers in nations where missionaries do not work, has an "urgent need" for one- and two-year teachers in China and Mongolia for the fall term beginning Sept. 1, said James Hampton, CSI assistant vice president.

"We prefer the two-year option, but some have gone for only one year and have been received by the schools,"

Hampton said. CSI relates to numerous colleges and universities in China and has been building contacts with education officials in Mongolia for several years.

CSI has requests from China for 34 teachers and two language students, and positions are open for two elementary school teachers and one language student in Mongolia.

Those interested should contact Judy Brummett by telephone at (804) 353-0151, Ext. 356.

CSI also has "a rather large number" of requests for summer teachers who will teach English as a second language in various colleges

and universities in China from July 4-Aug. 19, Hampton said. Those interested should contact Anita Mahoney at (804) 353-0151, Ext. 501.

Because of the student demonstration in China in 1989, the number of people who volunteered for teaching in China decreased last year. But CSI teachers experienced no security or safety problems in 1990 related to the demonstrations or their aftermath, Hampton stressed.

Vision: That which is ascribed to people who have guessed correctly. — The Silver City (N.C.) Chatham News

Baptist Women prayer retreat is scheduled at Camp Garaywa



Raley

Hardy

Baptist Women from across the state will gather at Camp Garaywa, Clinton, Feb. 15-16, for an overnight prayer retreat. The meeting will begin with supper at 6 p.m. on Friday and conclude with lunch Saturday.



Joiner

Barbara Joiner, speaker, conference leader, and author from Columbiana, Ala., will be the keynote speaker. Her latest

book, *Count It All Joy*, will be released soon.

Karen Hardy, soloist and music associate at Morrison Heights Church, Clinton, will lead music activities for the retreat. Pam Keith, youth worker, writer, and conference leader from Corinth, will direct a period of meditation for each session.

Other features will include Bible study led by Frances Raley, missionary to Taiwan; prayer testimony by Freda Trott, retired missionary to Brazil; and relaxation exercises led by Pam Smith, water aerobics instructor, Mississippi College.

Cost for the overnight retreat is \$21 per person. Those who wish to attend the sessions but not stay overnight at the camp pay \$1 registration fee upon arrival at the camp. Meals are available by reservation through the state WMU office. Cost of meals: breakfast, \$3.00; lunch and supper, \$4.00 each. Participants will need to bring towels and linens.

For additional information, contact the state WMU office, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, or call 968-3800.

Annuity Board's fixed fund earnings exceed projected rate for second year

DALLAS (BP) — Earnings of the Southern Baptist Annuity Board's fixed fund exceeded the projected crediting rate for a second straight year in 1990, according to Senior Vice President John R. Jones, head of the investment division.

"Consequently," Jones said, "we have credited earnings at an effective annual rate of 9.1 percent for 1990." The projected crediting rate for 1990 was 8.9 percent.

"When we announce a rate in advance," Jones said, "we are estimating what we will be able to credit. The estimates are based on the earnings being generated from the existing portfolio of investments. But we also have to consider what we will be able to earn on assets that mature during the year. We reinvest those assets and members' continuing contributions at rates prevailing when the investment is made," Jones explained.

"Because we are non-profit, when we earn over and above the projected crediting rate, we pass on the excess to members who have balances in the

fixed fund," he said.

Last month the board announced an 8.8 percent projected earnings rate for the fixed fund in 1991.

The fixed fund, with more than \$1 billion in assets, has primary objectives of preservation of principal and predictable returns. The Annuity Board announces a fixed fund rate each December for the coming year to help members decide how to allocate contributions and accumulations among retirement plan funds.

Though the fixed fund earnings rate is not guaranteed, the investments tend to be of such a conservative nature that the board never has credited less than the projected rate.

The Annuity Board, in conjunction with an investment advisor, invests members' accumulations in guaranteed investment contracts issued by major insurance companies, bank investment contracts and related deposit products issued by commercial banks and high-quality money market investments.

Housing benefits considered income for IRS tax credit

WASHINGTON (BP) — While members of the clergy are not required to pay federal income tax on housing benefits they receive, those benefits are considered earned income in determining a taxpayer's eligibility for an Earned Income Credit.

The Earned Income Credit is credit of up to \$953 allowed taxpayers with one or more children whose earned income is at least \$1 but less than \$20,264.

An IRS spokesman said a number of ministers in recent years have mistakenly applied for the credit because they failed to count their non-taxable housing allowance or the rental value of a parsonage as earned income.

In determining their eligibility for the credit, taxpayers must include the total of their taxable and non-taxable earned income.

The IRS has no specific figures on the number of ministers who mistakenly have calculated their

qualification for the Earned Income Credit by failing to count their non-taxable housing benefits as earned income, an agency spokesman said. She further stated that the IRS has no information that ministers deliberately had eligibility for the credit, which is deducted from taxes owed or refunded in cases in which no taxes are owed.

When all U.S. taxpayers are considered, errors in calculating the Earned Income Credit rank in the top 10 most frequently made mistakes each year, often in the top five, according to the IRS.

Beginning with 1991 tax returns to be filed in 1992, the IRS hopes to reduce some of the apparent confusion regarding the Earned Income Credit by requiring taxpayers to complete a form, schedule or worksheet to be attached to their tax return. Currently taxpayers use a worksheet provided by IRS to compute the credit, but keep the worksheet with their records rather than including it as part of their tax return.

African missions pioneer retires after 39 years

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Southern Baptist missionary Davis Saunders launched Southern Baptist work in Kenya in 1956. By the end of 1990, when the Walterboro, S.C., native retired as vice president of the Foreign Mission Board's work in Africa, his path had crisscrossed the continent for nearly 40 years. In that time Southern Baptist work in Africa has grown from 152 missionaries working in three countries to almost 1,000 missionaries in 33 countries, with work planned to open soon in three more.

Saunders and his wife, the former Mary Hogg of Charleston, S.C., where the couple now lives, first journeyed to Africa on a freighter that took on a few passengers in 1951. They went as missionaries to Nigeria.

In 1969, Saunders became the Foreign Mission Board's first field representative for eastern and southern Africa. He worked with all the missionaries there until 1973, when he became area director for the region. In February 1987 he became vice president for Africa.

He plans to begin teaching Feb. 5 at Charleston Southern University (formerly Baptist College at Charleston).

SS conferences set for leaders of single adults

A series of conferences for leaders of college and single adult Sunday School classes and departments is planned for mid-February.

The series, sponsored by the Sunday School Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will take place in four Mississippi cities: Hattiesburg, Jackson, Starkville, and Tupelo.

Leaders for the meetings will be for college leaders: Nell Magee, consultant in National Student Ministry, Baptist Sunday School Board; and for single adult leaders: Carolyn Ulmer, minister to adults at First Church, Conroe, Texas.

Dates and places for these conferences will be:

Feb. 11: 38th Ave. Church, Hattiesburg, 6:45-9:15 a.m.;

Feb. 12: Parkway Church, Jackson, 6:45-9:15 p.m.;

Feb. 13: Calvary Church, Starkville, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. (lunch will be provided at this meeting);

Feb. 14: First Church, Tupelo, 6:45-9:15 p.m.



Magee

Ulmer

Monroe seeks DOM

Monroe Association is seeking resumes for the position of director of associational missions. Deadline date to have resumes in is March 15, 1991. Please mail to: Monroe Baptist Center, P. O. Box 32, Becker, MS 38825.

Just for the Record



Old Oak Grove Church, Myrtle, Union County Association, held its GA recognition night in November. The theme was "My Promise to God on New Horizons." The leaders are Lisa Jordan and Belinda Roberson. Pictured, left to right, first row, are Valerie Pannell; Ginger Simmons, level 4; Amanda Yager, level 3; and Carol Peters. Second row, Crystal Kiddy, level 6; Amanda Roberson, level 6; and Cindy Dawson, level 6. Tommy C. Peters is pastor.

First Church, Lucedale, has surpassed its goal of \$14,000 for the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering with \$15,371 given. Mary Frances Hurt, WMU director, and Mamie Hodges, president, Baptist Women, prepared the program and the church. Clyde Carraway, music director, believes this to be a significant victory. The church is presently without a pastor.



Joel and Mary Haire

First Church, Crystal Springs, honors pastor

Mr. and Mrs. Joel E. Haire were honored Sunday, Jan. 6, on his 10th anniversary as pastor of First Church, Crystal Springs.

The church was filled with many worshipers who had come to join in celebrating the occasion, as Walter Hardee, master of ceremonies, interrupted the regular morning service with a surprise announcement to Haire that he would not be bringing the morning message.

Knowing that Haire would be concerned about the radio worshipers, a recording of his first message at First Church in January 1981, was broadcast during the regular worship hour.

"As representatives of a cross-section of the congregation came forward and told of the impact that Haire had on their lives, each one presented him a white long-stemmed rose which Mrs. Haire added to a white floral arrangement.

"A former minister of education, Barry Hardy, joined the present staff members, James Beasley, Dennis Rape, and Larry Papizan in relating the positive influence that Haire has made toward their spiritual life," said Ouida Holt, chairman of the committee. The graded choirs joined the adult choir in a musical "Thank You" to the pastor.

A reception was held from 2-4 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Fredonia Church, New Albany, gave \$5,100 to the Lottie Moon Foreign Mission Offering. This represents the fourth consecutive year of record giving to the foreign mission cause. H. Gregg Thomas is pastor.

Terry Road Church, Jackson, surpassed its Lottie Moon Christmas goal of \$2,000 with an offering of \$2,027. The Bible was read through 26 times with a goal of 25 and a goal of 30 was set for 1991.

Prentiss Church, Prentiss, plans a Lay Renewal Weekend, Feb. 8-10. The weekend will be led by laypersons from across the state. Sidney Ellis, Greenville, is the coordinator and Bill Mayfield is the general chairman.

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Names in the news

David Ring, evangelist, will preach at Wildwood Church, Tupelo, Feb. 18, at 7 p.m. Don Sparks is pastor.

Julie Bevell of Olive Branch has been named recipient of the first endowed scholarship at Mississippi College provided through the Christy Colbert Butler Memorial Scholarship Fund recently initiated at the college. Established through a sizeable endowment provided by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas W. Colbert of Forest, the scholarship is a memorial to their daughter for whom it is named.

Miss Bevell, a freshman, is majoring in music education with a goal of mission service following her college and seminary career. She is an active member of Bellevue Church.

She is the oldest of five children and has an outstanding academic record. In addition to receiving the Academic Dean's Award, she was a class officer, feature editor of the newspaper, a member of the homecoming court, and a member of the National Honor Society.

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Timothy J. Johnson, a faculty member at Eastern College in St. Davids, Pa., has been named associate professor of social work at Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky.

Johnson, 46, is the first African American to be appointed to a full-time faculty position at Southern Seminary. He begins teaching duties in the fall.

Johnson is on the governing boards of the North American Association of Christians in Social Work and the Association of Concerned Christians for Emerging Social Services.

AFA sues school district over "Impression" curriculum

Tupelo — American Family Association Law Center has brought suit in federal court in Sacramento, Calif., against a school district over its use of the Impressions curriculum. The suit was filed on behalf of parents Douglas and Katherine Brown against the Woodland Joint Unified School District. The Browns have a child in the Woodland district.

According to Donald E. Wildmon, president of AFA, Wicca or Witchcraft is an officially recognized tax exempt religion in the United States. "The ACLU has taken prayer out of the schools and left the pagan religions in. If we are going to have separation of church and state, then we should include all religions, not just Christianity," Wildmon said.

Benjamin W. Bull, General Counsel for the Law Center, said: "What a prayer is to a Christian, a spell or chanting is to a practicing Wiccan priest or witch." Bull said that the controversial curriculum has drawn pro-

Carl S. Barnes retired from Bovina Church, Vicksburg, as pastor. He served churches in Mississippi and Louisiana. Barnes is available for interim, supply, revivals, and Bible conferences. He may be contacted at 109 Maria Drive, Vicksburg, MS 39180 or call (601) 634-0934.

Ronald C. McLain, of Richton, received the bachelor of theology degree (Magna Cum Laude) from Florida Baptist Theological College in Graceville.

Steven M. Russell, guest pianist, will perform in recital on Feb. 7, at 8:15 p.m. in Aven Auditorium on the Mississippi College campus. Admission is free and the public is invited.

Russell, a native of Wesson, received his bachelor of music and his master of music in piano performance at Mississippi College. He is presently the staff accompanist at Copiah-Lincoln Community College. He is also pianist at First Church, Brookhaven and teaches private piano lessons.

Webster County churches sponsor area crusade

Webster County churches are sponsoring an evangelistic crusade to be held Feb. 3-7 at Wood Junior College, Mathiston, beginning each evening at 7.

Ralph Langley, retired pastor of First Church, Huntsville, Ala., will be the evangelist. Graham Smith, director, Church Music Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, will direct the music.

tests from parents in several communities across the nation.

The suit alleges that Impressions endorses and sponsors the religion of Wicca or Witchcraft. According to the suit, Impressions is a reading curriculum in which children are called upon to role-play as witches and wizards, to create and cast "spells," sit in circles and chant while passing candles, and participate in other occultic rituals and practices. The suit alleges that use of Impressions violates the First Amendment's Establishment of Religion Clause and requests an injunction against further use of the occultic portions of the curriculum.

The AFA Law Center is a national non-profit law firm specializing in constitutional rights of Christians. It is headquartered in Tupelo, and has over 350 volunteer attorneys across the country. San Jose attorney Scott L. Thomas is serving as local counsel for the Law Center.

"Resurrection" to be featured at conferences

NASHVILLE — Performances of the "Resurrection" portion of Handel's Messiah will highlight Church Music Leadership Conferences this summer at Ridgecrest, N.C., and Glorieta, N.M., national conference centers.

The Ridgecrest conference will be June 15-21 and the Glorieta conference, July 6-12.

Conference participants will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Sunday School Board's church music department and participate in a program of hymn singing from "The Baptist Hymnal."

Composer and Christian artist Dick Baker of Dallas will be concert/worship leader of both conferences.

Leaders at Ridgecrest include Guy Henderson, editor of the Baptist Record; Jackson, pastor; James Good, professor of church music at Southeastern Seminary, Wake Forest, N.C., organist; Suzanne Adams, pianist/accompanist, East Ridge Church, Chattanooga, Tenn., pianist; and John Glover, minister of music, First Church, Atlanta, as chorale director.

At Glorieta, conference pastor will be Bo Baker, evangelist from Irving,

Young Men's Rally speakers announced

The national High School Baptist Young Men's Rally will be held in Gatlinburg, Tenn., March 1-3, 1991. Christian comedian Jerry Clower; Doug Berky, mime/dramatist; and James H. Smith, Brotherhood Commission president, will be the program personalities.

Clower will be the featured speaker at the banquet Saturday.

Smith will lead conferences and Berky will perform throughout the weekend.

The rally will include small group conferences on topics ranging from dating to witnessing.

The rally, drawing high school age young men from across the country, is sponsored by the Brotherhood Commission, SBC.

Reservations can be made through the Brotherhood Commission in Memphis.

MOBS

From page 3

If the situation worsens, "We'll just have to do what we're doing now," McKinley said. "We couldn't travel, especially our people out (in remote areas) unless we were able to get police escorts."

Airports throughout Asia have tightened security and American airliners are under guard. Western embassies are guarded heavily throughout the region. U.S. embassies in many Asian countries have advised Americans to maintain a low profile and avoid public places, particularly those places frequented by Americans. However, many international schools in the region — closed when allied bombing of Iraq and Kuwait began — are resuming classes.

About 30 youths marched on the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta in what reportedly was the first anti-American demonstration in Indonesia since the outbreak of the war. The country has the world's largest Muslim population with about 80 percent of its 180 million people professing Islam.

Anti-war protestors in Taiwan tried to burn an American flag in front of the unofficial U.S. embassy in Taipei but police halted the demonstration.

In Istanbul, Turkey, bombs damaged the offices of a U.S. mission group and a shipping company with American ties Jan. 23 after a NATO facility was bombed the day before. The Anatolia News Agency identified the mission agency as the American Board, a group that reportedly has run schools and a publishing house in Turkey since the 19th century.

In Brazil, meanwhile, the Jan. 20 bombings of a Mormon church run by American missionaries and a Jewish synagogue are related to the Gulf war, officials said. The previously unknown "Palestinian Council" claimed responsibility for the church bombing, according to the Associated Press.

Texas. Jim Davis, minister of music at First Church, Tulsa, Okla., will serve as choral director; Allen Reed, professor of music at Howard Payne University, Brownwood, Texas, organist; and Benjamin Harlan, assistant professor of church music, New Orleans Seminary, pianist.

Reservations may be made Feb. 1 or later by writing to Reservations, Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, P. O. Box 8, Glorieta, N.M. 87535, or Reservations, Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center, P. O. Box 128, Ridgecrest, N.C., 28770.

Thursday, January 31, 1991

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Campus Baptist Young Women to have houseparty at Clarke

Baptist Young Women from college campuses throughout the state will gather at Clarke College for a giant houseparty, Feb. 15-16.



Williamson

Registration will begin at 5:30 p.m. to be followed by a banquet at 7, featuring the music group from the Clarke BSU. Other features of the overnight will include home missionary, Dottie Williamson; Bible study led by Sandra Nash; special interest seminar; and a talent show. Campus Baptist Young Women presidents will preside at the sessions.

Cost for the overnight is \$21 per person. Reservations must be made by Feb. 8. Registration forms may be obtained from BSU Directors on college campuses or from the state WMU office. Participants will need to bring linens and a pillow.

Annie Armstrong offering increased 8 percent in 1990

ATLANTA (BP) — National gifts to the 1990 Annie Armstrong Easter Offering for home missions totaled \$35.68 million, an increase of 8.14 percent over the previous year.

The unaudited final report shows the offering's largest percentage increase in three years and the sixth largest increase in the past 10 years. However, the offering still fell short

of the \$41 million goal. Although the annual goal has not been met since 1981, the 1990 offering came closer to its goal than the last four offerings.

Nationwide, 34 state conventions and fellowships increased their gifts to the offering in 1990 while six conventions and fellowships decreased their gifts.



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ATLANTA (BP) — SOUTHERN BAPTIST EVANGELIST BAILEY SMITH has received a pacemaker after blacking out during a cruise in the Bahamas. Smith, 52, reportedly collapsed Jan. 15 while the Starship Atlantic was docked in Nassau. He was taken to a hospital in Nassau, where a temporary pacemaker was installed, according to Debbie Kennedy, a staff member and spokeswoman with Bailey Smith Ministries in Atlanta. On Friday, Jan. 18, Smith was flown by air ambulance to Emory University Hospital in Atlanta, where a permanent pacemaker was installed Jan. 20, she said. A few days later, Smith was discharged from the hospital.

"MISSIONS: GIVING PEOPLE HOPE," the 1991 Home Missions Teleconference, will be broadcast over the ACTS Network. The teleconference highlights the testimonies of eight missionaries who were featured in the Woman's Missionary Union Prayer Guide to the 1991 Week of Prayer for Home Missions. The teleconference will air Feb. 3, 3-4 p.m.; Feb. 9, 5-6 p.m.; Feb. 14, 6:30-7:30 p.m.; March 3, 4-5 p.m.

NASHVILLE (BP) — HERBERT V. HOLLINGER, editor of the California Southern Baptist has been elected vice-president for Baptist Press. He plans a March 1 starting date. Hollinger, 49, has been editor of the newsjournal of the California Southern Baptist Convention since 1983. Before that, he was editor of the Northwest Baptist Witness for five years. An Idaho native, he received his bachelor's degree in business administration with a journalism minor from the University of Idaho in 1963. He earned a master of divinity degree from Golden Gate Seminary in Mill Valley, Calif., in 1973. He has been pastor of churches in California and Washington.

SOUTH CENTRAL BELL has announced the inauguration of a new honors scholarship at Mississippi College aimed at encouraging students to remain in the South for their college educations. Kelly Allgood, vice-president for South Central Bell operations in Mississippi, said the scholarship will be good for a four-year period and a new recipient will be named each year, meaning ultimately that the College will have four scholarship honorees each year.

PIBOR POST, Sudan (BP) — CIVIL WAR IN SUDAN has produced a martyr — a crippled pastor named Mamma. Mamma, stricken by polio some 10 years ago, had become pastor of a congregation among the Murle people in southern Sudan. Civil war forced his congregation to become refugees on the run. Wherever they moved, they carried Mamma on a stretcher. Details of Mamma's death are sketchy. According to a letter received by Southern Baptist missionaries Sam and Ginny Cannata, the pastor was killed by rebel fighters as he was teaching a group of believers. In the wake of Mamma's death, the Cannatas are asking for prayer that other Murle believers will rise up to take Mamma's place in the Christian movement among their people. And they're asking for prayer that Mamma's killers "may find the Jesus that transformed Mamma's life."

WHEATON, Illinois (EP) — CHRISTIAN LEADERS are praising recent Congressional legislation which has raised the number of legal immigrants to the U.S. from the current level of about 500,000 to 700,000 over the next three years. The bill comes just in time, say leaders of World Relief, the international assistance arm of the National Association of Evangelicals, since recent changes in Europe are causing a floodtide of migration.

NEW YORK CITY MAYOR RECEIVES COMMEMORATIVE NEW TESTAMENT: NEW YORK — (ABS) — The American Bible Society joined with members of the Baptist Ministers' Conference of Greater New York and Vicinity and New York Mayor David N. Dinkins in an interfaith celebration honoring the life of Martin Luther King, Jr. on January 21. Fred Allen, director of the Church Relations/Volunteer Activities Department of the American Bible Society presented Mayor Dinkins, the first African American chief executive of New York City, with an American Bible Society commemorative New Testament during the services. The Bible presentation coincided with an ABS initiative to strengthen its partnership with the racial/ethnic minority communities ("Heritage Groups") in the United States.

MEETING FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 54 YEARS, Soviet Baptist women have organized a Women's Union of the Evangelical Christian Baptist Union. The Women's Conference, held November 23 to 24 in Moscow, drew delegates from 15 republics. Participants elected Alexandra Kovalenko as president, Nadezda Komendant as vice president and Vera Kadaeva as secretary treasurer.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons), in an effort to neutralize anti-Mormon sentiment in Christian churches, for the past couple of years has conducted "Love Thy Neighbor" workshops in LDS wards nationwide. They are designed and led by Darl Anderson, an LDS official from Arizona. The workshop suggests specific ways for Mormons to befriend ministers of other faiths since: "Much of religious faith, opinion, and attitude comes to individuals through ministers in their various churches. So sharing peace and goodwill with these ministers is a very effective way to spread religious opinion and attitude." Mormons apparently are hoping that, by establishing good relationships with ministers, they can further maintain the myth that Mormonism is another form of Christianity. They also believe, apparently, that if they can convert a Christian minister to their church, he will draw many of his followers with him. Baptist and other Christian pastors and ministers are advised to be cautious in their relationships with Mormons, or those in other Christian-deviation groups. Pastors who are not careful may find themselves unwittingly manipulated for public relations purposes by leaders and missionaries of these groups. While Christians should establish relationships with those in non-Christian faiths (how else will we be able to witness to them?), they must be wary of their public relations agendas. (Written by the Interfaith Witness Department, Home Mission Board, SBC.)

GULF

From page 3

Saudi Arabia) and second is Medina (also in Saudi Arabia) and Jerusalem is the third holy site. Hussein has been able to get some support by talking about infidel occupation of Mecca and Medina. Of course the 'infidels' are not in either city, but we are protecting Saudi Arabia."

Although the current war against Iraq is justified, Woodberry believes, after U.S. and U.N. representatives made sincere attempts to resolve the dispute peacefully, he adds that "we should keep the human casualties as low as possible, as we are, because it would be too bad if we defeat Iraq massively — the reason being that it will arouse a lot of resentment. I don't want to see more force used than is necessary."

Woodberry went on to say that "even in the fighting I think... we need to have a certain degree of repentance as we realize we've been a source of much of the anti-American sentiments there." He added that "I feel we need to have a lot of humility in this, even though we are doing very well. As Christians... we need to combine peace and justice."

Woodberry urged Christians to pray for peace in the region and "Christians should pray for Saddam Hussein — I think Christian prayer should be guided by Daniel chapter 4 and Daniel chapter 5. In chapter 4, Nebuchadnezzar, the ruler of Babylon — present day Iraq — his heart was changed and after a time he was allowed to rule. In chapter 5, Belshazzar was removed. Christians should pray for peace that Hussein's heart will be changed or he will be removed."

Woodberry concluded that "we should love all people — even a biblical view of a just war means that you still love your enemy. In this case we need to love the Iraqis even though we're fighting against them."

Glaze will lecture at MC

A. J. Glaze, Jr., professor of missions at New Orleans Seminary and a former Clinton resident, will be the guest lecturer for evangelism lectures scheduled for Mississippi College, Feb. 11-13.

Glaze will speak in the Monday and Wednesday chapel services at 10 a.m. in Swor Auditorium. He will also visit various classes in the Departments of Bible and Philosophy and will be honored at an invitation-only dinner set for Monday evening in the B. C. Rogers Student Center.

Glaze received the BA degree from Mississippi College and doctor of theology degree from Southern Seminary.

He and his wife served as missionaries to Argentina, 1953-1980. He then joined Mississippi College as professor and chairman of the division of religion and served in that post for several years.

Staff changes

Fredonia Church, New Albany, has called Shannon Talley as minister of youth. His responsibilities include the youth music program as well as overall youth ministry. He is from West Helena, Ark., and is a ministerial student at Blue Mountain College. Gregg Thomas is pastor.

West Corinth Church, Corinth, has called Gary A. White of Richton as pastor, effective Feb. 3. A native of Jackson, he received his education at William Carey College and New Orleans Seminary. His previous place of service was First Church, Sand Hill, Greene County.



Home Board honors Brogan

Richard Brogan, consultant in Cooperative Missions Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, was a recipient of a 25 year pin, from the Home Mission Board, Atlanta, Ga. Brogan has served with the Home Mission Board and the Mississippi Baptist State Convention in Black Church Relations.

Brogan stated, "My assignments and opportunities have opened my heart and my mind to persons who are different from me but are still God's children. I have not only been in home and foreign mission fields but my soul has been a mission field cultivated and stretched to new dimensions by the spirit and power of God known in Jesus Christ."

Pictured is Ray Grissett (left), director of Cooperative Missions, presenting pin to Brogan (right).



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For whom are you concerned?

By Ruth N. Allen
Luke 10:25-37

Each year around Thanksgiving and Christmas our "concern quotient" begins to climb. Many churches and groups will say, in essence, "Let us look around for those who are needy and worthy." An all-out effort will be made to meet needs; but as the season ends, the concern level starts to decline. Concern should not be "seasonal" among the followers of Jesus. I am convinced one of the first Christ-like qualities a born again person possesses is to be concerned about other people.

I am indebted to Clyde T. Francisco, one of my favorite authors, for impressing upon me our need for concern for others. He points out that God, speaking to us in Romans 5:8, makes no distinction among people. "But God commended his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us." God does not base his concern on whether a person is worthy, but he bases it on his love for all people, even though we are sinners. When we look

UNIFORM

at people with the same concern and compassion as did Jesus, then we will see needs as the only criterion for displaying concern.

Jesus met a lawyer whose attitude based concern on the worth of the individual. The lawyer was well acquainted with Mosaic and rabbinical law and could properly interpret both, but he failed to be concerned for someone who was "different" as a neighbor. He was influenced by the idea, "If you are not like me, then I'll have nothing to do with you. You are of no concern to me." How tragic, but the idea still exists among some of us today!

Jesus told the parable of the Good Samaritan which illustrates concern and answers the question, "And who is my neighbor?" Christians should have little difficulty understanding the central truth in this parable, for Jesus was careful to make it most apparent. Jesus used a simple illustration of an event common in his day. It was not unusual for travelers to be robbed as they traveled from Jerusalem to Jericho. After being beaten, robbed, and left for dead, two men who should have represented concern passed by a wounded man. These two, the priest

and Levite, were concerned but only with their ceremonial cleanliness. It was more important to them not to be defiled than to offer assistance to one in need. How similar are people today! Some are much more concerned about maintaining the status quo and not defiling the purity of their religion. An important feature of Jesus is that he never once allowed the fear of being involved deter him from showing concern to the needy.

The Samaritan of Jesus' day was a despised and hated person. Naturally, when Jesus included him in the story as the one who showed concern and mercy, it struck a note of discord in the lawyer, for when Jesus asked which was a neighbor to the man robbed, the lawyer would not call him by name but simply said, "he that showed mercy." To this Jesus replied, "Go thou and do likewise."

Jesus is teaching us that anyone who is in need and to whom we can minister is our neighbor. In Middle English, "neighbor" meant someone who was "nigh-by." Naturally, to most people this meant family, tribal, or national member. Rarely did concern or care extend beyond these boundaries. Consequently, the lawyer felt no compulsion toward anyone unlike himself. You and I may develop the same

tendency — to be concerned only about our own and to care little for anyone else. If the message of the parable is to bear fruit, we must extend our concern beyond family, nation, or race. We must see other people as sinners for whom Jesus died.

There are two questions we must answer today. First, "Do I possess the Christian quality of concern?" If the answer is "no," then pray diligently that God will speak to your heart and that you will yield to his will. You may have never experienced the new birth. If this is true, confess your sin and ask Jesus to save you today. He alone can give you the warm, compassionate concern for meeting the needs of others, even if they are "different" to you.

The second question is, "Am I willing to show care and concern to someone this week?" Be concerned for a family member, a friend, a fellow worker, a social acquaintance, and especially a "stranger." If you cannot think of a practical way to show love and concern to someone this week, spend time studying this passage. Spend much time in prayer asking God to lead you to that person or persons in need. Be a Good Samaritan!

Allen, of Jackson, is the wife of Judd Allen, pastor of Ogden Church, Bentonla.

Everlasting life when we trust in Jesus

By Benny Still
John 11:21-27; 40-44

One of the most difficult events that we can face within a lifetime is the death of a friend. My best friend passed from this life to the next

in March 1979. I still find myself thinking of him from time to time and wondering how he would have handled a given situation if he were here today. Another difficult, yet similar event we experience is the death of a family member. How wrenched are our hearts and despondent our spirits at such a time. Each family affected by death has to deal with its feelings of loss in its own unique way.

In the death of the Christian, however, there is always that glimmer of hope that bursts forth through the grief of his/her family. That hope, that calm, that peaceful assurance shining through the depths of despair is the promise of Jesus to every believer that eternal life in heaven with him awaits us when we die. Many times I have watched families suffer through the funeral of a loved one without the assurance of eternal life. I have listened as bystanders would say, "I just don't see how they can cope

LIFE AND WORK

during such a time without Jesus." As a matter of fact, they don't cope very well at all — for there is no hope of ever seeing that dear one in heaven.

The promises Jesus makes in the passage for this week's lesson assure us that we can have life everlasting when we trust in him. Jesus told Martha, "Your brother shall rise again" (vs. 23). He further stated in vs. 25, "he that believes in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live," and in vs. 26, "whosoever lives and believes in me shall never die." It must have been very difficult for Martha to comprehend what Jesus was saying through the grief she was experiencing since her brother's death. Martha was much like us, unable to hear the truth through her tears. Jesus must have empathized with her because the scripture records in vs. 35 that he was troubled in his spirit and wept. It is important as we look at what Jesus did and the things that he said, that we recognize the awesome power he had at his disposal based on his own unique relationship with God the Father. The promise of Jesus is that those who believe in him will experience resurrection to everlasting life. He said it three times in the first part of

our passage for this week.

Sometimes we get so caught up in the fact of the resurrection of the believers to life everlasting that we fail to remember that all persons will experience the resurrection. John records for us in chapter 5, vs. 28-29, "... all who are in their graves will hear his voice and come out, those that have done good will rise to live, and those that have done evil unto condemnation." The only way to avoid such eternal catastrophe — separation from God in hell — is to repent of our sins and ask Jesus to forgive and save us through the power of his blood and resurrection. Through the book of John, we see the admonition to trust in God's Son Jesus for our eternal salvation. Not to do so seals our eternal destiny in hell. To trust him for salvation reserves our abode in the place that he has gone to prepare for us.

Jesus' humanity allowed him to realize the frailty of our comprehension of such divine matters. In vs. 40-44, we find the Lord making good on the promises he had made to Martha. As he prayed in vs. 42, one gets the impression that he's pleading with his Father to hear him once more so the folks standing 'round will finally believe that God really had sent him. How sad that our stubbornness is many times a deterrent to our faith.

Everlasting life and resurrection is available

to the believer through the personal faith that he/she has exercised in Jesus Christ (vs. 27). In a children's sermon I heard recently, the pastor described faith as the belief in something or someone that you had not yet experienced or seen. He further explained that such a belief and faith could only be exercised if the element of trust were present. Then he placed a little boat made of screen wire on the surface of the water in the glass — even I was skeptical that it would float. But because he had seen it done before — had experienced it for himself — he was able to give convincing testimony that truly the experiment would be successful. And it was. We exercised our faith in his testimony, experienced what he had experienced, and now claim the assurance of his promise that it would work.

Jesus did perform the miracle of resurrection of Lazarus from the grave. The event foreshadowed the unique resurrection of Jesus. Because Jesus was able to raise Lazarus from the dead and because he, himself, conquered death once and for all when God raised him from the dead — we, too, can have the assurance that he will make good on his promise to raise us in that day.

Yes, Jesus really does meet our needs!

Still is pastor, Poplar Springs Church, Mendenhall.

The greatness of faithfulness, humility, service, and gratitude

By Jerry Vardaman
Luke 17:1-18:14

A famous British military officer (Wellington) was asked, "What is the greatest word in the English language." His response was

"Duty." He repeated this same word when asked what was the second greatest word, and what was the third greatest word. All of us should consider it a privilege to work out and to serve. A miserable time in the life of this writer was when I was on shipboard for 79 days during World War II. There was nothing to challenge and occupy troops

who were simply moving from one point to another, across a vast stretch of monotonous water, all of which looked the same, week after week. I thank God for each challenge today, which provides opportunities of service and labor, when I look back upon the monotony of doing nothing, during those frustrating days aboard ship.

Service is an enormous privilege, but it is just as important to remember that the right kind of action is what is most vital. Jesus warns us (17:2) against the misuse of our example and our destiny-determining influence. He said that it was better to be cast into the sea with a heavy

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millstone around our necks than to cause one innocent, believing child to stumble and miss the mark in his life due to our poor example. Our youth today are often ruined by the deleterious example of parents who are blind to the damage which they are doing to their children. Jesus was talking here about a millstone so large that it required a donkey to turn it (see the parallel passage in Mark 9:42; in Greek, *mulos onikos* means just that).

Gratitude (Luke 17:11-19)
In reading the story of the ten lepers who were healed, we need to recall that Jews and Samaritans despised each other at this time, yet only a Samaritan had the greatness of heart to express to Jesus his gratitude for being healed. Jesus commends him for this character of his life and says that we are to practice the same virtue.

We are never to stereotype people. We might believe that no good can ever be done by Germans, Italians, or Japanese; after all, they were our enemies during World War II. We might have prejudice against any other nationality, or people with another color of skin from ours. The story of the healed Samaritan teaches us (along with the Parable of the Good

Samaritan) that it is wrong to generalize about people. There are good and bad people in every nationality, and the good people should not be penalized for the evil done by a few of a certain nationality. Jesus looked for the best in others, and teaches us to be positive also in our relationships.

Faithfulness (Luke 17:20-37)
Jesus lived in an age filled with eschatological expectancy. Today we also hear of false prophets who are given to predictions about the exact time Jesus will return or when the final judgment will take place. Jesus gives us good advice when he says that the kingdom of God comes not with observation (17:20). We need to remember that the Lord could come at any hour, and we are daily to live faithfully for him and serve him in love. There is more religion in one day of faithfulness in life than in all of the false predictions which have been uttered since the world began.

Humility (18:10-14), and honesty
In the parable of the pharisee and publican we have invaluable religious lessons. One of the main lessons is that for a man to claim to be religious, or even to be in a place of religion, is no guarantee that he has an acceptable spirit or religion before God. The pharisee saw himself wrongly — thinking that he was more religious than the man who beat upon his breast and cried out for God's mercy and forgiveness.

The pharisee saw God wrongly, thinking that

he had a special corner on God and that God would be delighted to hear his prayer in preference to the prayer of a publican (a filthy tax collector, as far as the pharisee was concerned). Yet, the prayer of the pharisee did not reach higher than his head; the prayer was only characterized with self-praise and self-esteem, and, sadly, with self-deception. The pharisee needed grace just as much as the publican did, and was blind and dishonest with himself. The publican recognized his condition and, by confessing his sin, repudiated it, and separated himself from such sins. The pharisee, in failing to confess his sin, was still identified with it.

The pharisee saw others wrongly — by comparing himself with others. It is always possible to find a greater sinner than we are — if all that counts are our outward sins. Someone has robbed a bank, committed adultery, killed another human being, etc. and we have not. But, attitudes are important and God judges both actions and attitudes. The pharisee failed to see the wickedness in his attitude of self-righteousness, but Jesus said that the publican (condemned as a wretched sinner by the pharisee) went down to his house saved, rather than the judgmental pharisee himself. The humble, praying publican is a lesson for us all to emulate in our attitude, and not the arrogant, proud pharisee.

Vardaman is professor of archaeology, Miss. State University.



Book reviews

Second oldest missionary celebrates 100th birthday

By Anne W. McWilliams

Floy Jacob, second oldest missionary, Foreign Mission Board, SBC, celebrated her 100th birthday, Jan. 18 in West Point, Miss. In 1989, she moved from her native Franklin, Ky. to West Point to live with her daughter, Mary Ingram.

Mrs. Jacob was born January 18, 1891, in Franklin, Ky. The SBC's oldest former foreign missionary, Lora Clement, who lives in Darlington, S.C., was born Feb. 24, 1889.

First Church, West Point, proclaimed Sunday, Jan. 20, as Floy Jacob Day. On Jan. 18, all of Mrs. Jacob's four daughters — Mary Ingram, Martha Lowe, Elizabeth Marble, and Lydia McIntosh — and also all of her 12 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren were in West Point for her birthday supper.

In 1922, Floy Wright married Robert Jacob in Tokyo, Japan. He had gone to China two years earlier, to do language study in Peking and to establish mission work in Laichow-fu, Shantung Province. The two had been students together in Louisville. She, a Georgetown College graduate, was studying at WMU Training School and he, also a Kentuckian, was enrolled at Southern Seminary.

The Jacobs served in Shantung Province, at Laichow-fu and then Pingtu, until 1940. He was principal of a middle school for boys. In early years, she directed an orphanage kindergarten, but her major role was missionary homemaker. One Chinese woman told her, she recalled, "I never knew what a Christian home was like until I saw yours."

Three of their four daughters, Elizabeth, Mary, and Martha, were born in China. The other, Lydia, was born three days after her parents arrived in the United States on furlough.

Floy and the children returned to America in 1940 when Japan occupied north China. However, Robert was held in a Japanese internment camp until 1943. Both continued work with the Foreign Mission Board through schools of missions and other speaking engagements until his death in 1953. She kept on with the same type of ministry until she was nearly 80. Though they had been reappointed to Hawaii in 1952, the Jacobs did not get to go because of his illness.

At First Church, West Point, on Jan.



Floy Jacob, who reached age 100 on Jan. 18, reads her Chinese Bible. The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's second oldest former missionary, she first went to serve in China in 1922. (Photo courtesy of Daily Times Leader, West Point)

20, Carter Morgan, former dean of the Hong Kong Baptist Seminary, spoke in the morning service, as representative of the Foreign Mission Board. Mrs. Jacob, who knew Morgan's parents, said she was a guest in their home when she was enroute to China for the first time.

The congregation on Jan. 20 sang several of her favorite hymns, including "Jesus Loves Me," a favorite in China, she said, among all ages. The Woman's Missionary Union sponsored a luncheon with Mrs. Jacob as guest of honor. The church had arranged a card shower. GAs made a poster, "Happy 100th birthday!"

"100 is young!" said Floy. "Many people live to be 100 now!" She remains mentally alert, her sense of humor still strong, though her vision and hearing are failing. According to her daughter, Martha, "She is fairly

active for her age, and has worn out three pace makers."

Grandchildren as their gift to their grandmother made a contribution to the Ron Winstead Fund, to help support one who is working with the Cooperative Services International as an educator in China.

When a box of letters arrived in West Point from individuals and groups in First Baptist Church, Franklin, Ky., one letter stated that numerous contributions had been given to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering in Mrs. Jacob's honor.

"Oh, wonderful!" she exclaimed, and beamed with delight.

Floy Jacob has lived in parts of 11 decades and two centuries. Yet in an unsure world, she has remained sure of the unchanging truth that for her has always been a focal point: "God is love."

LIFE AFTER MISSISSIPPI by James A. Autry (Yoknapatawpha Press, Oxford, Miss., \$13.95, 87 pp., introduction by Willie Morris, photography by Lola Mae Autry).

This is Autry's second book of verse. (His first was *Nights Under a Tin Roof*.) Beginning chapters take the reader back to the author's Mississippi roots. The opening poem, "Fishing Day," is about a group of families spending the day on a riverbank, catching catfish. Its vivid details that make the heart laugh — and cry — are a part, too, of all the poems that follow it. Later chapters continue to a world where Autry is president of magazine publishing at the Meredith Corporation. In "Leaving Mississippi," he says, "Now that home is gone forever from Mississippi, yet it is with me still, in the fall smell of wood smoke from some suburban chimney, in an Atlanta taxi driver's turn of phrase, in the quiet of an old church in Bavaria, in a stanza of 'Amazing Grace' . . ."

Autry is the son and grandson of Mississippi Baptist ministers. He grew up in the hills of Benton County, at Pine Grove Baptist Church and the Abel Store community. He is a graduate of the University of Mississippi, a former jet fighter pilot in the Air Force, and former editor of *Better Homes and Gardens*. Married to Sally Pederson, he lives in Des Moines, Iowa.

Photographs that illustrate the book were taken by Autry's talented stepmother, Lola Mae Autry. A record of

rural life in Mississippi of the '40s and '50s, they show scenes such as dogs treeing a possum; men grabbin' for fish; brothers playing checkers; a child asleep in the back of a pick-up; the author's father, Ewart Autry, baptizing in a river; and the "gossip center" at Abel's store. They underscore the truth of Autry's poetry.

Everybody who loves Mississippi should read this book. As Willie Morris says in the Introduction, "He shares with us the power of his faith in mankind . . ."

"Life After Mississippi is Autry's tribute to his Mississippi roots, to the places and people that nurtured him and which now sustain him in the corporate boardrooms of America . . ."

"For what Autry is writing about, again and again, is home. He listens to voices heard and unheard, and he touches something deep in our hearts."

Photographs by Lola Mae Autry published in *Leaving Mississippi* were on display at the University of Mississippi Oct. 17-Nov. 18, 1990. A reception and book signing were held for the author and illustrator at the university. Mrs. Autry, who lives at Whippoorwill Valley, Hickory Flat, is also an author and a musician. Patti Carr Black, director of the state historical museum, which sponsored the photo exhibit in Oxford, states that this exhibit is booked through September 1991 in Gautier, Pascagoula, Tupelo, and Corinth. — AWM

New books from Broadman

The People of God by Paul Basden and David Dockery, 365 pp., \$19.95. Collected essays on the believers' church.

Illustrating Great Words by J. B. Fowler, formerly pastor of First Church, McComb, 194 pp., \$8.95. Word studies that will open the windows of the mind.

How To Be Happier In The Job You Sometimes Can't Stand by Ross West, 157 pp., \$12.95. A self-improvement book on creative thinking, positive relationships, and handling criticism.

What Should I Do When . . . by Billie Friel, 144 pp., \$6.95. Grapples with the perplexing questions of crisis, suicide, loneliness, divorce, joblessness, and growing old.

Children's Sermons by Roy E. DeBrand, 95 pp., \$5.95. Helpful hints in

preparing messages for children.

Getting Ready for Special Sundays by Martin Thielen, 160 pp., \$6.95. Assist pastors and music directors for worship on special occasions.

The Bible Answers Senior Adults' Questions by Elmer L. Gray, 139 pp., \$6.95. Seeks to answer questions about retirement, anger, not sleeping well, loneliness, etc.

Help, There's A Computer in My Church by David Trammel, 140 pp., \$7.95. Practical advice for using computers in churches.

Clothed in White by Ray G. Register, Jr., 192 pp., \$8.95. The ship, S. S. Hope meeting needs in the mid-east.

Ruling forebodes dangers, CLC warns

WASHINGTON (BP) — The death by starvation and dehydration of Nancy Cruzan forebodes even greater threats to the sacredness of human life, two staff members of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission have said.

Cruzan, 33, died Dec. 26, 12 days after a court in Missouri ruled that feeding through a tube into her stomach could be stopped. Her death at Missouri Rehabilitation Center in Mount Vernon came amidst a national debate over the morality and legality of allowing a patient to die by refusing to continue giving her food and water.

Richard D. Land, executive director of the Christian Life Commission, said he was "very disturbed" by the ruling that allowed Cruzan to die.

"The commission is opposed to the definition of hydration and feeding as extraordinary medical means to

maintain and prolong life," Land said. "I think that the Cruzan case sets a very dangerous precedent. Americans who are clearly disturbed by this have every reason to be. It's a further sign of the erosion of the protections around the sanctity of human life in our culture."

Cruzan was admitted to the rehabilitation center in October 1983 after being severely brain damaged in an automobile accident in January of the same year. The feeding tube already had been inserted. She was not on a respirator at any time while she was at the center, said Barbara Shoun, public relations director at the rehabilitation center. Her condition was classified as a "persistent vegetative state."

The legal line is being tested again in the case of another patient at the Missouri Rehabilitation Center. Pete Busalacchi recently was blocked by a

temporary restraining order from moving his daughter, Christine, 22, to a facility in another state. Busalacchi wants to transfer his daughter, who sustained severe brain injuries in an auto accident in 1987, to a state where the requirements for removing a feeding tube are less stringent.

Christine Busalacchi, while

classified, like Nancy Cruzan, as in a "persistent vegetative state," is able to smile at particular people and to move her right hand on command, Shoun said. Busalacchi was not able to respond in such ways when she was admitted to the center three years ago, Shoun said.

Bond issue for Liberty University violates separation of church and state

Richmond, Va. — A proposed \$60 million bond issue for Jerry Falwell's Liberty University violates the constitutional separation of church and state, according to the Virginia Supreme Court.

The court noted that unlike other church-related colleges that have received government assistance, Liberty requires its faculty and

students to attend church and chapel six times each week, requires its faculty and students to subscribe to the college's religious doctrine and circumscribes its faculty's academic freedom through doctrinal mandates.

Liberty U. had planned to use the proceeds of the bond issue to consolidate existing debts and expand its campus.

Baptist Record

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January 31, 1991